

Parchment and Glove Making in Havant

(With reference to the Stallards in Buriton
and in Newport, Isle of Wight)

Compiled by Ralph Cousins

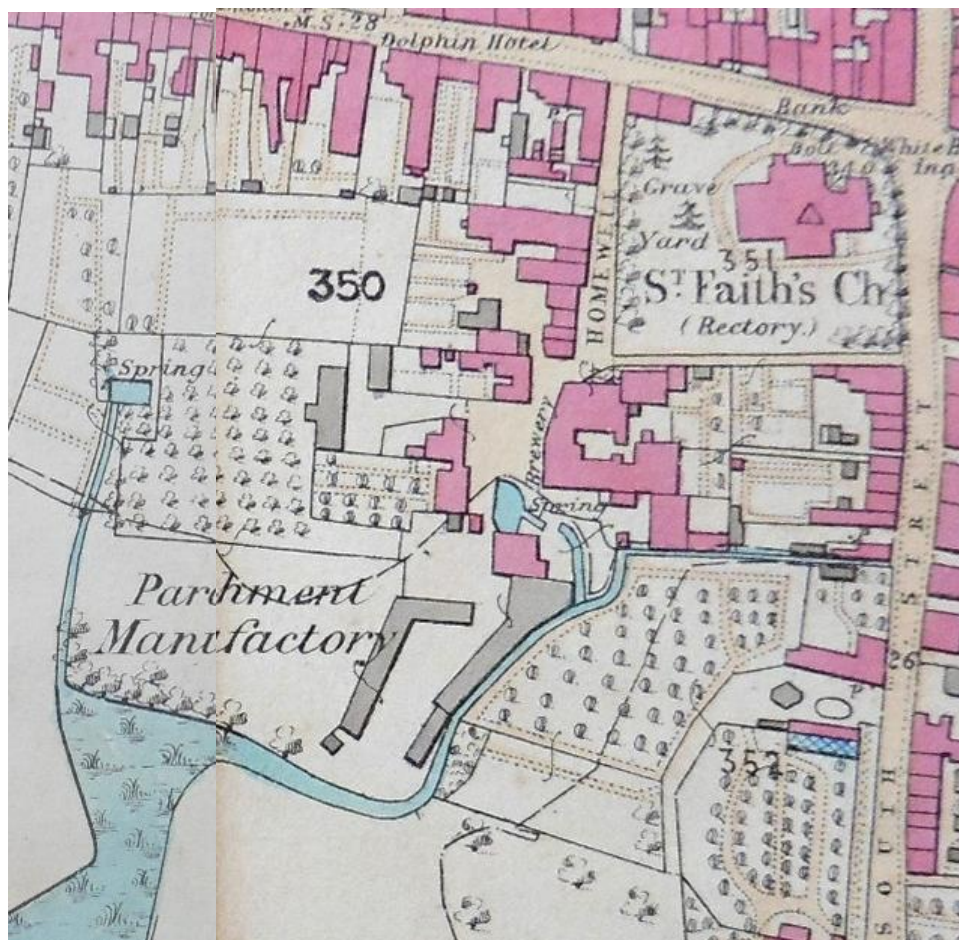


The Homewell Spring and former Grade II Listed parchment yard buildings

Havant History Booklet No. 67

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1870 Ordnance Survey map showing the Parchment Manufactory, Brewery and St Faith's church. Note the springs feeding into the Town Mill mill dam.

Introduction

In AD935 the present town of Havant was recorded with the name 'Hamanfunta' which can be translated as 'Hama's Spring' and almost certainly refers to the Homewell spring which lies to the south-west of St Faith's churchyard and adjacent to the old parchment yard. Its waters flow through the old parchment yard.

The presence of this spring near to the crossing point of two ancient tracks, one following the coast and the other coming down from the downs to the shore, made the immediate area an ideal place for the establishment of settlements over the years. The convenient proximity of the harbours and forest also meant ample supplies for fishing, hunting, wood and forest pasture.

Archaeological finds indicate that Havant has probably been inhabited for several thousand years. The remains of Mesolithic dwellings have been found near to the Lavant Stream to the north of Wakeford's Copse as well as Neolithic implements at Langstone and Bedhampton, and Mesolithic flints in East Street. On Portsdown, close to Havant's Saxon boundary, there are the remains of a Neolithic long barrow that was later used as a Saxon burial ground.

Doubtless some activity in relation to leather making has been carried on here for some hundreds of years. However the claim that parchment has been made here in Roman times or for a thousand years cannot be substantiated. Likewise the claim that the Magna Carta was written on Havant parchment in 1215 can also be dismissed.

Another claim that Havant parchment was white because of the *unusual qualities* of the Homewell spring water cannot be substantiated. The reason is more likely to be because white sheep fleeces tend to produce white parchment; the sheep farmed in Hampshire and Sussex, such as the Southdown and Hampshire breeds, were white. However, having said that, I have seen a reference to chalk being rubbed into the surface to help make it white so perhaps our chalky water may have helped.

In order to try and establish the extent of parchment making in Havant and who made it I have included extracts from various trade directories and newspaper

references. I have also included the connections there were between Havant, Buriton and Newport on the Isle of Wight.

It is a fact that the manufacture of parchment was an important industry in Havant during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

It has been difficult to find accounts of parchment making in England but the extract on Parchment And Paper Making from the *Victoria County History*, Oxfordshire, vol 2, 1907 shows that parchment making was taking place in that county over several centuries. It may therefore be reasonable to assume that manufacturing was taking place elsewhere as well where conditions were suitable.

I have also included an account of the leather and parchment making industry in Bermondsey in 1750 which was obviously an important centre for the leather and parchment making industry. Clearly it was being made on the continent so perhaps some was imported. Given the importance of the monasteries in the writing of manuscripts it could also have been made there as well.

The fact that John Penfold's will of the late 1600s was written on parchment as were documents to the Bishop of Winchester and St Faith's parish registers of 1653, does not prove parchment was being made here in any quantity.

I have included various articles which have been written on the history of Havant parchment and highlighted in red where claims are made which I believe are dubious.

An article by John Pile on Homewell has also been included which gives a general history of the immediate area.

Ann Griffiths, John Pile and Steve Jones have helped in carrying out extensive researches in order to contribute to this attempt to establish a more accurate history of parchment making in Havant.

Assistance has also been given by Simon Dear of the Isle of Wight Record Office and Doug Jones of the Buriton Heritage Bank.

My personal, interest in parchment making arises from the fact that my great grandfather, grandfather, great uncle, uncle and quite possibly other family members were all parchment makers.

Ralph Cousins - January 2017

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Parchment Writing Material

Written by The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica

Parchment, the processed skins of certain animals – chiefly sheep, goats, and calves – that have been prepared for the purpose of writing on them. The name apparently derives from the ancient Greek city of Pergamum (modern Bergama, Turkey), where parchment is said to have been invented in the 2nd century BC. Skins had been used for writing material even earlier, but a new, more thorough method of cleaning, stretching, and scraping made possible the use of both sides of a manuscript leaf, leading to the supplanting of the rolled manuscript by the bound book (codex).

Parchment made from the more delicate skins of calf or kid or from stillborn or newly born calf or lamb came to be called vellum, a term that was broadened in its usage to include any especially fine parchment. The vellum of most early manuscripts, through the 6th century AD, is of good quality. After this, as demand increased, a great amount of inferior material came on the market, but by the 12th century, when large numbers of manuscripts were being produced in Western Europe, a soft pliant vellum was in vogue.

In Constantinople, a sumptuous form was produced at an early date by dyeing the material a rich purple and lettering it in silver and gold, a practice condemned as a useless luxury in a well-known passage of St Jerome. The purple dye was subsequently abandoned, but the practice of “illuminating” parchment manuscripts in gold, silver, and other tints flourished throughout the European Middle Ages.

In modern usage, the terms parchment and vellum may be applied to a type of paper of high quality made chiefly from wood pulp and rags and frequently having a special finish.

Theophilus Presbyter

Theophilus Presbyter, 1070-1125, a monk writing from probably a monastery in West Germany, recorded the following description of parchment making in the early 12th century:

The Basic Technique

Take goatskins and stand in the water for a day and a night. Take them and wash them until the water runs clear. Take an entirely new bath and place therein old

lime (calceman non recentem) and water, mixing well to form a thick cloudy liquor. Place the skins into this, folding them on the flesh side. Move them with a pole two or three times each day leaving them for eight days (twice as long in winter).

Next you must withdraw the skins and unhair them. Pour off the contents of the bath and repeat the process using the same quantities, placing the skins in the lime liquor, and moving them once each day over eight days as before.

Then take them out and wash them well until the water runs quite clean. Place them in another bath with clean water and leave them for two days.

Then take them out, attach the cords and tie them to the circular frame. Dry, then shave them with a sharp knife, after which, leave for two days out of the sun. Moisten with water and rub the flesh side with powdered pumice. After two days wet it again by sprinkling with a little water and fully clean the flesh side with pumice so as to make it quite wet again. Then tighten the cords, equalise the tension so that the sheet will become permanent. Once the sheets are dry, nothing further needs to be done.

Schedula diversarium atrium

Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, Vol 2, 1907

Parchment and Paper Making

In a county within the bounds of which was situated a large and ever-increasing university, it is only natural to expect, and to find, in early days parchment makers and in later times several paper-works. The earliest year that can be given for a *studium generale* in Oxford is, too, the first year in which a parchment-maker is mentioned. In or about 1180, Reginald, a parchment maker, occurs in a deed of Elias Bradforth now preserved in the Oxford University Archives. During the reign of Richard I, Roger *pergamenarius*, or parchment-maker, had his dwelling within the parish of St Mary the Virgin. It would appear, from the few records that exist, that in early times the parchment makers, like the bookbinders, dwelt for the most part in or about Cat Street. It was in this street that Simon *parcamenarius*, had his abode between 1240 and 1290. Here too dwelt Stephen *percamenarius*, between 1251 and 1252. The names of Simon and Peter also occur at this time as the makers of parchment. The powers of the university were gradually extended over some of the trades which came into intimate contact with the members of the university, and in 1290 all the parchment makers of Oxford were placed under the jurisdiction of the chancellor. During the fourteenth

century several names of individuals trading in parchment are to be found, though the exact date is not always to be ascertained. In 1303 John de Warham is recorded as a parchment-maker. The name of Adam de Walton occurs in the University records, and Simon, who was engaged in the same trade, was a witness concerning land in the parish of St. Mary the Virgin. In 1377 a John is recorded as a maker of parchment, and it is possible that he was the John Hyrys mentioned with Richard and Edward in 1380. That parchment-making continued is, of course, an obvious fact, for books were a necessity; but the meagre records on the subject only supply a very few names in the fifteenth century: these were Richard senior and junior in 1410, and Hawkins and Alexander, who are called parchment sellers, in 1482.

The next century witnessed a considerable falling off in a trade which had evidently flourished in the thirteenth century. During 1556 and 1594 only five names occur of men engaged in the industry. These were James a Wood in 1556; Thomas Wadloff in 1564; Gilbert Burnet *alias* Cornyshe in 1567; Thomas Gowre, who resigned his office of parchment seller in 1593-4, and was succeeded by William Jennings or Fenninge. In the first twenty years of the seventeenth century three names are left on record. John Cooke was followed by Henry Dockin, who was succeeded in turn by Richard Parne. But by the seventeenth century it is probable that white paper for books was well known, though Macpherson would place the date of its introduction at the end rather than the beginning of that period. At any rate, by 1666 the Wolvercote paper-mill, the fame of which is at the present day world-wide, was established. Just as Dr. Fell exhibited so much interest in the creation of a great Press at Oxford, so he exercised his influence and encouraged the fitting up of the paper-mill at Wolvercote by Mr. George Edwards, at that time a well-known engraver.

Timeline of events relating to parchment making in Havant, Buriton, Newport, Isle of Wight and Bermondsey

In order to try and establish the history of parchment making in Havant information has been obtained from various sources and is listed as follows:

1600s – *Victoria County History* records that William Bayly and Wm Hayter were Havant's two chief fellmongers in the early 17th century.

1653 – St Faith's church parish records written on parchment.

1668 – Hampshire Record Office has the will, viewable on fiche, of Jethro Bates, fellmonger of Havant.

1703 – Bermondsey, London. A charter of incorporation was granted to all persons instructed as apprentices in tanning for seven years who exercised their craft in the parish. They must have of their number from fourteen to twenty-four assistants, out of whom they must elect annually a master and two wardens.

1720 – Will of John Penfold, a tanner of Brockhampton, written on parchment.

1750 – Bermondsey, London. The tanners were numerous, and carried on here a more extensive business than in any other part of the country. Some members of allied trades, fellmongers, curriers, leather-dressers and parchment makers, were established in the parish, and calico printers, dyers and pin and needle makers were represented in a small degree.

1784 – *Hampshire Directory*. James & William White – Fellmongers, Thomas Hewitt – Tanner at Havant.

1791 – The *Universal British Dictionary* lists Samuel Gloyne, 'Feltmonger (*recte* Fellmonger) 'Parchment and Glue Maker'; and Messrs. White Feltmongers (*recte* Fellmongers), Glue and Parchment Makers'. The date does not tell us when these businesses were established, only that they existed at this time.

1784 – A map of this date does not show any buildings on the site of the later parchment works.

1792-98 – *Universal British Directory* – Havant : John Ford – Fellmonger and Grocer. Samuel Gloyne – Fellmonger, Parchment and Glue Maker. Messrs White – Fellmongers, Glue and Parchment Makers.

1792 – A third of the leather in the country came from Bermondsey.

1823 – Pigot and Co's *Hampshire Directory* lists Samuel Gloyne and Messrs. White under 'Fellmongers' but they are now Gloyne & Sons, South Street and White & Powers, Homewell. Although parchment is not specifically mentioned, they are clearly the same concerns as those listed in the 1791 directory.

1828 – Pigot & Co's *National Commercial Directory*. Henry Ford – Fellmonger, West Street. Samuel Gloyne & Sons – Fellmongers, Wool Dealers & Glue Manufacturers, West Street. William Irish – Fellmonger & Parchment Manufacturer, West Street. Richard Power – Fellmonger, Parchment Manufacturer & Glue Manufacturer, Homewell. Richard & William Puttman (or Putman) Parchment Manufacturers, West Street.

1830 – Pigot & Co's *National Commercial Directory*. Henry Ford – Fellmonger, West Street. Samuel Gloyne & Sons – Fellmongers, Wool Dealers & Glue

Manufacturers, West Street. William Irish – Fellmonger & Parchment Manufacturer, West Street. Richard Power – Fellmonger, Glue Manufacturer & Parchment Manufacturer, Homewell. Richard & William Puttman (or Putman), Parchment Manufacturers, West Street.

1832 – 1 November. Beneficiaries of will of Richard James White Power (died 21 Dec 1832) inherit a property described as: *My dwelling house and premises in West Street, Havant, and my malthouse, brewery and cottage adjoining thereto, in the occupation of William Turner; a beer store in Homewell; a share in the fellmongers yard and premises in Homewell adjoining and two cottages in Homewell.*

1836 – February. William Irish is in the *London Gazette* as due to appear at the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors at Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, 'late of West Street, Havant, Fellmonger, Parchment Maker, Leather-Dresser, Glover and Dairyman'.

1836 to 1840 – In the Hampshire Record Office, in connection with the title deeds and papers relating to Skin House, Titchfield, there is an attested copy of a mortgage and conveyance by Charles Bullen Power of Havant, woolstapler, to Charles Fauntleroy of Bermondsey, Surrey, woolstapler. Charles Fauntleroy was born on 14 Feb 1802 and died in 1872; the 1851 to 1871 censuses show him as a woolstapler and merchant living in Russell Street.

1839 – *Pigot & Co's National Commercial Directory*. Samuel Gloyne & Sons – Fellmongers, Wool Dealers & Glue Manufacturers. Hulbert – Fellmonger.

c.1840 – Edward Stallard takes over a parchment yard in North Lane, Buriton.

1844 – Edward Stallard files for bankruptcy.

1847 – Edward Stallard is listed in a local directory as a parchment maker at Homewell, Havant.

1847 – *Post Office Directory*. William Irish – Fellmonger, Wool Dealer & Glover, West Street. John Judd – Parchment Maker, Homewell. Edward Stallard – Parchment Manufacturer, Homewell.

1851 Census –Edward, Fellmonger (Master) employing 8 men and 4 boys.

1852 – *Hunt & Co's Directory*. Eliza Irish – Fellmonger & Parchment Maker, Wool Dealer & Glover, West Street. John Judd – Fellmonger & Parchment Maker, West Street. Edward Stallard, Fellmonger & Parchment Maker, Homewell.

1855 – *Post Office Directory*. Mrs Irish, fellmonger, West Street, Havant.

1859 – *White's Gazetteer & Directory for Hampshire*. Eliza Irish – Fellmonger & Glover, West Street. Edward Stallard – Parchment Maker Tanner, Homewell.

1861 Census – Edward Stallard, 'Fellmonger employing 3 men and 1 boy'.

1861 Census – Thomas L Foster tanner, farmer and parchment maker employing 12 men and 2 boys.

1865 – Pigot & Co's *National Commercial Directory*. Albert Stallard & Edward Stallard – Parchment Makers, West Street. Edward Stallard – Fellmonger, West Street.

1869 – Edward Stallard dies aged 77, leaving a will with a codicil showing that he has already passed the parchment works to his sons, George and Albert. His effects are valued at under £600.

1870 – 14-year lease between George and Albert Stallard and Charles Fauntleroy, a woolstapler and merchant of Bermondsey. The lease was for 'A Fellmongers Yard, Meadow and premises at Homewell, Havant, Hants', together with its watercourse. The premises included a newly-built warehouse, scalding-house, drying sheds and storehouses, two stables, cart-house, coal-yard and also two closes of meadow or pasture land, 'at or near Homewell, and now in the occupation of the said George and Albert Stallard'. This was possibly a new lease following the death of Edward Stallard.

1872 – Charles Fauntleroy died on 2 October leaving his 'messuages, lands, factory and hereditaments at or near Havant' to be sold by his trustees.

1875 – *Post Office Directory*. Albert Stallard – Parchment Maker, Homewell. George Stallard – Parchment Maker, Homewell. James Stallard – Parchment Maker, West Street.

1878 – *Havant Directory*. Stallard Bros. – Parchment Makers, Fellmongers & Wool Dealers, Homewell. Alfred Stent – Parchment Maker, West Street.

1880 – *Havant Directory*. George & Albert Stallard – Fellmongers & Parchment Manufacturers, Homewell. Alfred Stent – Fellmonger & Parchment Manufacturer, West Street.

1880s – The author's grandfather, Charles Augustus Cousins and great uncle William Hambridge Cousins move to Stallards from the Pavlova parchment works in Abingdon.

1881 Census – Edward Stallard, master fellmonger employing 19 men and 7 boys. His son Thorburn, aged 22, is a fellmonger.

1881 Census – George Stallard is described as a fellmonger employing 19 men and 7 boys. His brother Albert describes himself as a parchment manufacturer.

1890 – *The Havant Almanac*. Stallard Bros. – Fellmongers & Parchment Manufacturers, Homewell. Alfred Stent – Fellmongers & Parchment Manufacturers, West Street.

1891 Census – Francis George Foster, tanner, farmer and parchment maker.

1891 Census – Samuel Hurst lodging with William Cousins; employed as a 'Sheep Skin Frizer'. Interestingly he was born in Bermondsey.

1898 to 1931 – Trade directories list G & A Stallard as dyers, fellmongers, tanners and brewers at 44 and 45 Crocker Street, Newport, Isle of Wight.

1900 – William Cousins dismissed from the Stallards' employment for heading a petition for a farthing (0.1p) an hour rise.

1901 – Edward Stallard, 'wool dealer and parchment manufacturer – employer'.

1906 – George Stallard died at East End House leaving his half-share of the freehold parchment yard at Homewell to his son, Thorburn Aylmore (died 1923).

1911 – Albert Stallard, of Magnolia House, East Street dies leaving his half of the parchment works to his son Albert Ernest Stallard (died 1918, aged 48).

1935 – G. & A. Stallard listed at 43 Crocker Street, Newport, Isle of Wight.

1936 – Yard closes and parchment making in Havant finishes after what we know to be at least 150 years.

1936 – December, the *Havant Messenger*, (published by the Chamber of Commerce). In the December issue, under '*Town Topics*', it reported that: 'Since the last issue the well-known and old-established Fellmongery and Parchment Making Works have been closed but we hope not finally.'

1937 – June/ July, *Evening News* – To Leather Factors. Paper Manufacturers. Skin Dressers. Tanners. Laundry Proprietors. Mineral Water Factors and all requiring WELL-SITUATED FREEHOLD WORKS. WITH AN EXTENSIVE SITE OF SOME 11 ACRES. with the splendid advantage of an Unlimited Supply of FREE SPRING WATER being the factory at HOMEWELL HAVANT, lately in the occupation of Messrs. G. & A. Stallard. Parchment Manufacturers. Which COLLETT & COLLETT have been Instructed to offer for Sale By Auction AT AN EARLY DATE when they will also offer the FIVE FREEHOLD COTTAGES Nos. 13. 14, 15, 16. & 17. HOMEWELL, HAVANT, jointly producing £93 12s. Od. per annum.

1940s – At some time after 1936 the builders Geo. & R. Carrell purchased the yard from the War Office.

1943 – The National Fire Service took over the yard but had to use the nearby public lavatories to save building their own. For this they were charged £8 a year. They also had an office in Homewell House. It is believed that troops were stationed here prior to D-Day.

1949 to 1952 – David Bowen rented from Carrells the upper storey of the first building on the right where his company Fenwood-Bowen made model gliders, employing several girls on the assembly work. From 1952 to 1971 David Bowen was at 15 South Street, where Carrells had been making coffins and windows etc. Here he made other products as well as the gliders.

1997 – Homewell Parchment Works listed Grade II by Historic England. Site sold to McCarthy and Stone.

2005 – Parchment buildings converted into living accommodation and remainder of the site developed as retirement/sheltered flats.

Fellmonger

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A fellmonger was a dealer in hides or skins, particularly sheepskins, who might also prepare skins for tanning. The name is derived from the Old English 'fell' meaning skins and 'monger' meaning dealer. Fellmongery is one of the oldest professions in the world and since ancient times, man has used the skins of animals to clothe himself, and for making domestic articles.

Today the term has become restricted to the person or the operator of the machinery which removes sheep's wool or the hair of other animals from hides in preparation for tanning. The process of fellmongering has to be done quickly after the animal is slaughtered to prevent the hides from decaying before tanning can begin. First they are trimmed of all unwanted pieces like legs, neck and tail then soaked in water to allow the skin tissues to distend.

Next, a sodium sulfide solution is applied to the skin side of the fleece. The sodium sulphide soaks through the skin and destroys the follicles of the wool roots so that the fellmonger can then separate the wool from the skins. The wool is washed and dried. The skins are then soaked in a stronger solution of sodium sulphide and lime for 21 hours to remove small clumps of wool missed by the puller and to break down some internal proteins within the skin.

The next process is called deliming: the skins are soaked in a solution of water and ammonium sulfate. This is to remove all the sodium sulphide from the skin and degraded proteins. The next process is the bating which is to remove any remaining protein from the surface.

Historically, fellmongers belonged to a guild or company which had their own rites and by-laws to regulate the quality of the skins, workmanship, treatment of apprentices and trading rights.

Mixture of sodium sulfide and lime; this loosens the wool after a few hours, depending upon the temperature. Then the wool is easily pulled off.

(There is no mention of sodium sulphide being used at Homewell so it is probably a more recent process.)

Woolstapler

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A wool-stapler is a dealer in wool. The wool-stapler buys wool from the producer, sorts and grades it, and sells it on to manufacturers.

The expression wool-stapler fell out of use during the 20th century. Staple in this particular context means a market.

Prior to the 17th century Staple was also a particular type of market, "a place appointed by royal authority, in which a body of merchants had exclusive right of purchase of certain goods destined for export".

The now best known English staple was at Calais but in medieval times there were, at various times, many others throughout the kingdoms of England and Ireland and the facing coast of the Low Countries, all involved, though not exclusively, with the English wool trade.

The importance of wool to the English economy can be shown by the fact that since the 14th Century, the presiding officer of the House of Lords has sat on the "Woolsack", a chair stuffed with wool.

Frizer

The *Morning Chronicle* of 15 November 1850 published an article entitled *Labour and the Poor* which included a section on London tanners and curriers. This section quoted below most probably mirrors the way of life of the men who worked in Havant's parchment yards.

The job undertaken by a 'frizer' is described; the machine referred to is no doubt the same as that installed at Homewell.

The several workers in the preparation of leather – the curriers being an exception – are not an educated class.... I was informed by an intelligent workman from his own knowledge, that in their societies not one man in three can write his name legibly, or spell it correctly. I found a working tanner, to whom I was directed, in a public-house, reading to two of his trade, who regretted their inability to read an account of a prize fight. Among tanners, I was told, there was still a strong "hankering after a prize fight", and that some noted boxers had sprung from them – among others "Ned Turner", who was brought up as a tanner, but was afterwards a frizer, or a man who divided the grain of sheep-skin for hat linings and other purposes from the flesh, to be manufactured into "chamois". The operation is now done unerringly by machinery, and the frizer's occupation is extinct. The workmen in this trade are generally married men. There is still a good deal of drinking prevalent among them, and little inclination for working on Mondays, but in both these respects there has been within these twelve years a decided improvement. The workers not in but on leather, now rarely drink more than a pot of beer a day when at work; from twelve to twenty years ago they consumed twice that quantity. "I took the pledge, sir", said a tanner to me, "and kept it rather more than two years. I was often teased by my mates to drink, but they got tired of that. I used to say, when I walked past Simon the Tanner, 'Simon, you'll get no more tanners [sixpences] out of me;' but I found, or fancied, that I couldn't work so well without a reasonable allowance of beer, so I gave up tee-totalling".

Early Havant Tanners with PRO wills.

PROB 11/353/162 – Will of Thomas Bexhill, Tanner of Havant, Hampshire Date: 09 February 1677

PROB 11/397/289 – Will of Nicholas Sone, Tanner of Havant, Hampshire Date: 20 November 1689. Nicholas was the son of John Sone, tanner, who died in 1698. The earliest mention of John Sone comes in the will of his spinster sister, Elinor Sone of Stoughton, Sussex, who leaves a bequest to her brother, John Sone of Havant, Tanner.

Wills of Havant Glovers, Fellmongers and a Feltmaker

PROB 11/263/658 – Will of Arthur Bettsworth, Glover of Havant, Hampshire. Date: 21 May 1657

PROB 11/356/112 – Will of Richard Parker, Feltmaker of Havant, Hampshire.
Date: 31 January 1678

PROB 11/629/292 – Will of William Holton, Fellmonger and Glover of Havant, Hampshire. Date: 03 May 1729

PROB 11/1612/381 – Will of John Ford, Fellmonger of Havant, Hampshire. Date: 27 January 1819

Havant Wills in Hampshire Record Office

1668P/04 Will and inventory of Jethro Bates of Havant, Hampshire, fellmonger
Date: 1668

1828B/86 Will of John White of Havant, Hampshire, glover and fellmonger Date: 1828

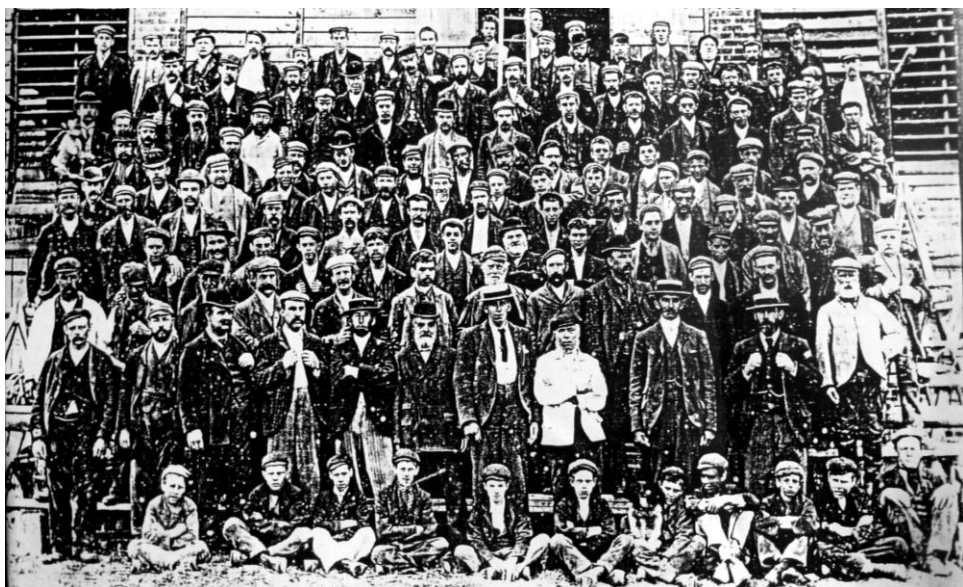
5M62/10 Page 629. Registered copy will of Thomas Land Foster of Brockhampton, Havant, tanner and farmer. Date: 1869

13A04 Samuel Gloyne, fellmonger, parchment & glue manufacturer, West Street, Havant, deeds date: 1663-1830. Abstract of the title of Samuel Gloyne to a leasehold messuage and premises situate in West Street, Havant, 1663-1810 and a mortgage of a fell-monger's yard in Boyland Lane, from Samuel Gloyne to Mary Waldron, to secure £500, 1815, endorsed with a reconveyance to Gloyne, upon repayment of the loan, 1830.

129M90/J22 Conveyance of land known as 'Manor Piece' situated in Brockhampton Lane, Havant, between (i) Francis George Foster of Brockhampton, Havant, tanner (ii) Samuel Clarke of Havant, merchant Date: 27 Oct 1894
Description NB Deed cover endorsed '12a and 12b Brockhampton Lane'

Parchment Making in Havant - Eileen Ford

Parchment making is one of the most ancient of crafts. Although it is often said that Magna Carta of 1215 was written on Havant parchment there can be no way this can be proved. The record that some documents of Winchester Cathedral were written on parchment from the Bishop's Havant Manor and that the early registers of St Faith's dating from 1653 were written on parchment may be an indication that parchment was being made here. Havant parchment was renowned for its excellent quality and whiteness. Some say this was as a result of the chemical properties of the spring water but there is no scientific evidence for this. It is said that fleeces from white sheep produce white parchment. Sheep of



Thorburn Stallard with 133 employees. Circa 1890s.



A 1909 photograph of parchmenters (parchies) at Homewell.

other colours produce parchment tinged yellow or brown. We can be fairly sure that the Treaty of Versailles was signed on Havant parchment in 1919 as this was said by people working there at the time.

The nearby spring of hard water, 'The Ham Well' (from the Saxon – The Town Well) percolated through the chalk and gravel of the South Downs to serve the parchment works at a constant temperature. It has rarely been known to fail in time of drought, or to freeze during the hardest of winters, although in the long summer drought of 1976 it did cease to flow for a time but soon recovered when the drought ended.

One of the last assignments from the Homewell parchment yard was the scroll granting the Freedom of Winchester to Mr Stanley Baldwin (later Earl Baldwin of Bewdley). Latterly, a large proportion of the output of parchment from Homewell was exported to the United States where the demand far exceeded the supply.

The last parchment manufacturing firm in Havant was G & A Stallard, which closed in 1936. During the war the site was requisitioned by the War Office and by 1949, when Bowen was there, it was purchased by the builders Geo. R. Carrell Ltd.

When this use ceased the site was purchased by McCarthy and Stone who applied for planning permission to demolish all of the buildings to build retirement homes. However a successful campaign was launched to have the buildings Grade II listed, the main reason being that they were the best example of a parchment making yard left in the country. The site has been developed and named Springwell. The old buildings have been converted into living accommodation and a block of 32 sheltered/retirement flats named Watermill Court has been added.

Parchment Makers

Little is known of the early parchment makers beyond the last two centuries.

A 1793 Hampshire directory lists Messrs White of Homewell and Samuel Gloyne of West Street as fellmongers, parchment makers and gluemakers. In 1830 Richard Power, parchment maker and woolstapler, was at Homewell Lane, and by 1847, Edward Stallard, parchment maker and fellmonger from Buriton had taken over the Homewell yard. This was the beginning of the Stallard family's long connection with the Havant parchment making industry. Edward's sons, George and Albert, G & A Stallard, worked with him, and some time before he died in 1869 he transferred the business to them.

The 1851 census shows that eight men and four boys were employed at the yard; the 1909 photograph of employees shows a group of thirty seven. The Stallard family worked the Homewell Yard until its closure in 1936. Thorburn Aylmore Stallard, son of George, was the last owner. The spirit of the parchment makers is typical of an ancient industry – sons followed fathers in the craft. An indenture for Albert Churchman, drawn up on parchment, states that he was apprenticed for five years, for which privilege his employer was to be paid 2s. 6d. (12½p) per week for the first three years, and 5s. (25p) per week for the remaining two years. (See copy of his indenture on page 29.)

There was little or no danger of unemployment, and the majority of parchment makers worked at the same skilled craft, with the same employer, throughout their lives. The Homewell yard recorded at least three very long-service craftsmen with 73, 60 and 58 years of skilled work to their credit.

It is of interest to note that Alfred Stent, fellmonger and parchment maker, also of Buriton, and related to the Stallard family, originally worked with Edward Stallard at the Homewell yard. He then continued to develop these industries at the tannery in West Street, with his sons, Stirling and Frank. Alfred Stent and Sons eventually became a glove factory of international repute. Parts of the original warehouses and wool store, on the south side of West Street, are still in existence and in 2016 were converted into flats.

The Decline of the Parchment Making Industry

In the years between the two world wars, the demand for parchment in England gradually decreased as more and more synthetic materials became available. The export market for parchment was flourishing, but an adequate and constant supply of fresh skins was essential. The growth of imports of frozen meat from abroad caused the supply of these fresh skins to be severely curtailed. With the lack of suitable raw material few parchment factories could survive.

The Parchment Making Process

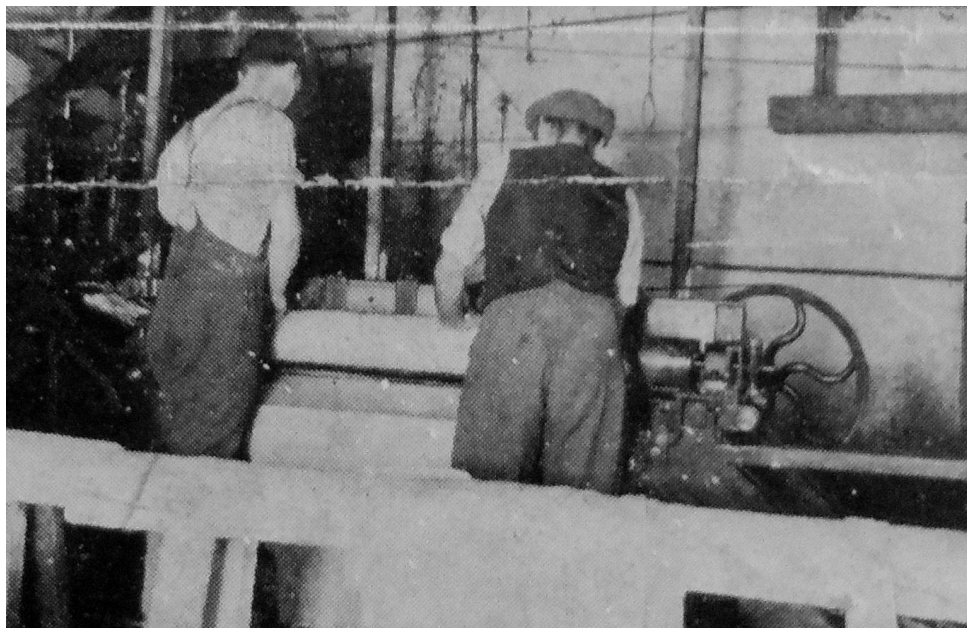
The following is a brief summary of the processes involved in parchment making between the receipt of the fresh sheepskin and the finished product. (About ten weeks). Each of the stages proceeds slowly and water is important to almost all of them. The pelts are:

- Washed and limed to loosen the wool, which is then removed by hand, sorted and then sent to the wool-markets.

- Steeped in a series of lime-pits – 'pokes' – of different strength solutions and changed daily.
- Stacked flat in a pile and drained.
- 'Fleshed', i.e. fat removed by a two handled knife, bow-shaped and blunt edged.
- Skin is stretched – 'strained' – on wooden frame, and tightened by means of slip-knots, put over knobs of skin – 'pippins' – at edges of frame.
- 'Fleshing off'. Skin treated with boiling water and scraped to smooth off.
- Dried in the air, shaved and levelled with a wire-edged knife.
- Coated with solution of soda-ash (frees any remaining grease) and whiting (absorbs grease), and left to dry in the open air, or 'stove' room.
- Washed off with warm water, and 'rubbed' with pumice stone,
- Still kept in the frame, set in the open air to dry and harden.



Skins being soaked in lime pits



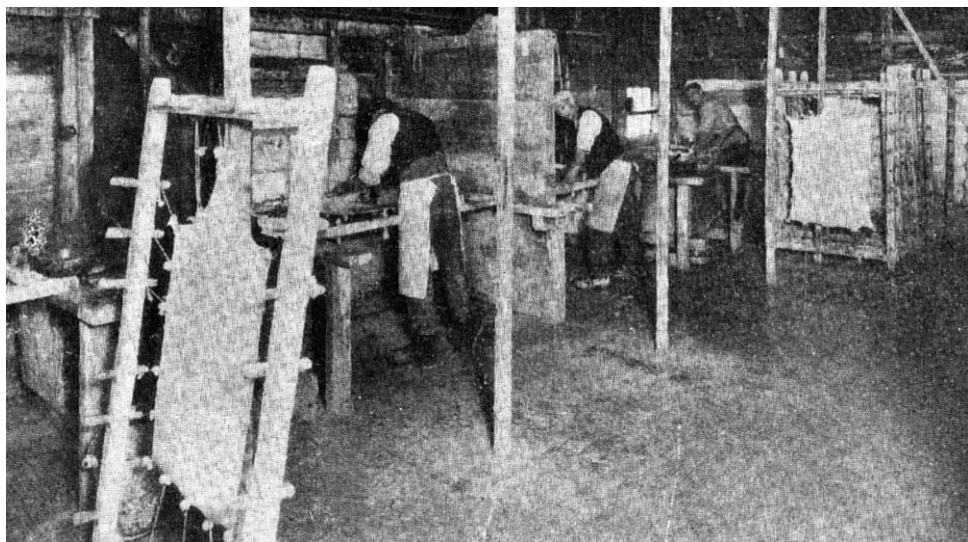
Splitting. Separating the dermis from the epidermis



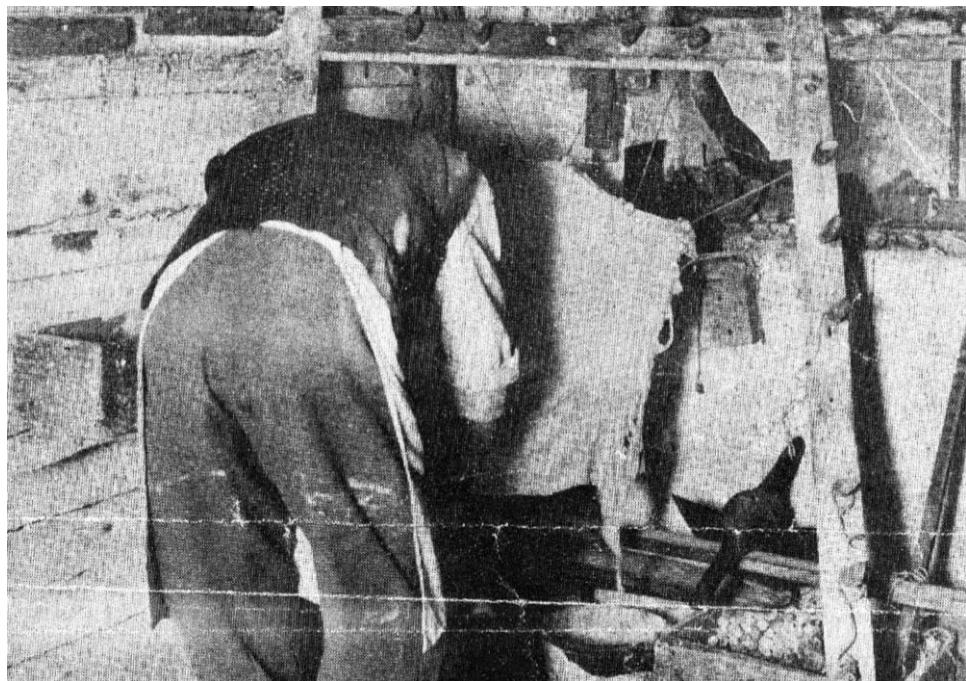
The back-breaking job of scraping a sheep's skin



Removing surplus fat with hot water and a knife



Scalding. The final process before drying the finished skins



Tying a skin to a frame



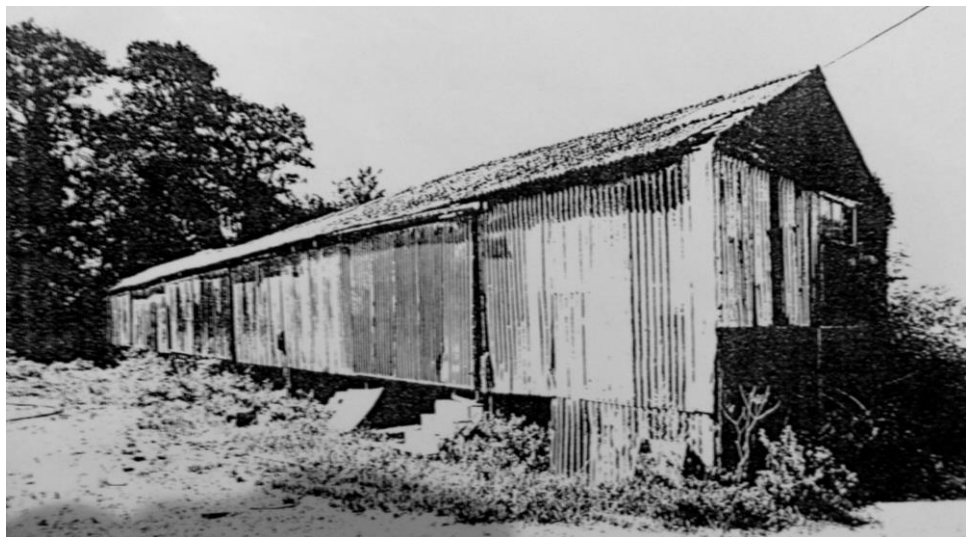
This photograph is thought to be of a Stallards works outing



Thorburn Stallard and parchment makers circa 1900. Homewell House is in the background.



A general view of the Homewell yard with the bad weather drying shed on the left. Parchment skins drying in frames outdoors.



The former drying shed at Homewell as it was in latter days; clad in corrugated iron and used as a store.



The restored drying shed



Shaving and scraping the irregularities on the back of the skin to level the surface

Additional Description Written Anonymously

From the earliest years of its existence Havant has had various industries based on its plentiful supply of an essential industrial raw material – water.

As we know water is still, as it always has been, virtually unfailing and abundant. As far as one can judge, Havant people were skilled at various necessary processes, and were hard working and resourceful. So for these reasons from very early times Havant was very active in water based industries, such as tanning leather, glove making, brewing, and watercress growing.

Another essential material was a steady supply of animal skins, sheepskins in particular. And in those early days the small settlement of Havant was close to and surrounded by farming of all sorts chiefly by grazing land where animals were just raised for food. And as the animals were butchered for food, animal skins were plentiful and not to be wasted. So Havant had available the three necessities for parchment making – plenty of water (very necessary as you will see when describing the parchment making process), an easily available supply

of animal skins, and skilled and a willing work force. All these factors came together at Homewell spring.

In recent times, there were two families of "fellmongers" the general term for treaters of animal skins in Havant, the Stents and the Stallards. The Stents had a skin processing workshop in West Street, just west of the junction with Brockhampton Lane, chiefly producing leather goods, coats, gloves etc. It was the Stallards who owned and ran the works in Homewell, and who specialised in parchment making.

Parchment making was a long, skilful and rather messy process, since quantities of water were needed for every stage of the treatment. The sheepskins were delivered complete with the wool on them, and they had to be delivered within a short time of the animal being slaughtered, as the slightest hint of decomposition would harm the finished product. The skins, still with the wool on, were put to soak in tanks in the floor, known as pokes, which were filled with water from the spring. Seventeen of these survived at Homewell until the buildings were altered. Lime in varying strengths, as necessary, was added to the water.

The skins were then taken to well-ventilated rooms on the first and second floors where the limed sheepskins were hung prior to removing the wool. They were hung for four to 10 days, depending on the temperature. After this the wool was removed from the skins, using a crescent shaped blade with handles at the ends. All blades used on the skins had to be blunt, as a cut could ruin the skin, so this must have been hard skilled work. The wool would have been sold on as a profitable by-product for spinning and cloth making. Once stripped of wool the skins were put to soak in solutions of lime in the pokes. The lime would have been stored on the premises and the water, of course, came from the spring.

Fat was then scraped from the skins, before they were split to separate the outer layer from the inner layer, from which the parchment was made. The outer layer produced a quality of leather that could only be used for such things as book bindings, but nevertheless it was used. Nothing was wasted; even the fat scraped from the skins was put to various useful purposes.

This left the inner layer of the skin from which the parchment was produced. The final vestiges of grease were removed by applying a solution of whiting and soda ash to the parchment which was then allowed to dry before being washed in hot water. There must have been some sort of facility for heating the water, probably a wood or coal burning stove, but there is no record of this.

Once washed in hot water, and while still wet, the parchment was stretched on a frame. These were stout wooden frames of varying sizes with dowel-like pegs at intervals round the sides on which the skins were stretched tight. Skin scrapings were placed around the edges of the skins to form knobs, known as pippins, over which slip knots were passed. The strings were tightened by winding the pegs at the edges of the frame to which they were attached, so that the smooth white skin was stretched like a drum skin.

Once stretched on the frames, the last drying must be in the open air. This was usually done in the yard, but if the weather was bad the frames and skins were put in the drying shed, which has been preserved. They would then have a final polish with pumice, and been ready to be trimmed and delivered to customers. All the processes occupied a full ten weeks, and could not be hurried.

It will be realised that all the treatments depended on the skill and experience of the workmen, which is probably why one foreman retired after 73 years with the firm. Nothing was written down or set in stone, because every skin was different. Attempts were made to update the processes and in 1928 a steam driven machine for splitting sheepskins was introduced, and also a secret chemical for removing bloodstains from the parchment without damaging it. Was the blood from the animals or from the humans working on the skins?

But by then the demand for parchment was dwindling – there was plenty of paper being produced. The skins were becoming harder to come by as farming changed and places for slaughtering changed. And skilled workmen, on whom the whole process of parchment making depended, were becoming extremely scarce – there were many pleasanter ways of earning a living available. In 1851 nine men and four boys were parchment makers. In 1909 there were about 37 employees but finally in 1936 the yard closed.

Attempt to Modernise

In 1999 a blow could have been dealt to the last manufacturer of parchment in the United Kingdom, William Cowley of Newport Pagnell, when the House of Lords attempted to end the practice of inscribing all Acts of Parliament on parchment; this being a tradition going back to the days of Simon de Montfort. Instead they proposed that they should be printed on special archival paper thus saving some £30,000 a year. This paper has a claimed life of 500 years compared with parchment which has a life of nearer 5,000 years.

Two copies of each act are produced; one going to the House of Lords library in the Victoria Tower of the Palace of Westminster, and the other to the Public Record Office at Kew, south-west London.

However all this was in vain as from April 2016 archival paper is being used instead of parchment in order to now save £80,000 a year.

Indenture of an Apprentice Parchment Maker written on parchment.

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH That Albert Churchman now of the age of Fifteen years or thereabouts with the consent and approval of his father Albert Churchman of Havant in the County of Hampshire, doth put himself Apprentice to George and Albert Stallard of Havant aforesaid, Fellmongers and Parchment Makers to learn their Art and with it hereinafter the Manner of an Apprentice to serve from the Second day of December eighteen hundred and ninety-nine unto the full End and Term of five Years from Thence next following to be fully complete and ended DURING which Term the said apprentice his Masters faithfully shall serve their secrets keep their lawful commands everywhere gladly do he shall do no damage to his said Masters nor see to be done of others but to his Power shall tell or forthwith give warning to his said Masters of the same he shall not waste the Goods of his said Masters nor lend them unlawfully to any he shall not contract Matrimony within the said term nor play at Cards or Dice Tables or any other unlawful Games whereby his said Masters may have any loss with their own goods or others during the said Term without Licence of his said Master shall neither buy nor sell he shall not haunt Taverns or Playhouses nor absent himself from his said Masters service day or night unlawfully But in all things as a faithful Apprentice he shall behave himself towards his said Masters and all theirs during the said term AND George and Albert Stallard in consideration of the labour and service which they are to have of the said Apprentice do hereby covenant that they will teach their said Apprentice in the Art of a Parchment Maker which he useth by the best means that he can shall Teach and Instruct or cause to be taught and instructed during the said term. The said Apprentice to pay George and Albert Stallard or theirs the sum of two shillings and sixpence every week for the first three years and five shillings every week for the remaining two years of the Apprenticeship. AND for the true performance of all and every the said Covenants and Agreements either of the said Parties bindeth themselves unto the other by these Presents. IN WITNESS whereof the Parties above named to these Indentures interchangeably have put their Hands and Seals the nineteenth day of March in the sixty-third year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of GREAT

BRITAIN and IRELAND QUEEN Defender of the Faith and in the Year of our LORD nineteen hundred.

(Signed) Albert Churchman. (Signed) George and Albert Stallard.

Signed sealed and delivered by all the said Parties in the presence of Charles Edward Stallard of Havant.

PARCHMENT MAKING, ANCIENT HAMPSHIRE INDUSTRY

A MAGIC SPRING. (from our special correspondent.)

HAVANT, HANTS.

England has nearly done with parchment documents. Hardly anything but long lease agreements and conveyances is put on parchment, so that the home demand is small. With the growth of imports of frozen meat from Australia and New Zealand the supply of skins for the making of parchment has dwindled, too, and, owing to lack of raw material, few parchment factories can work full time. Yet there is a great and growing market for English parchment in America, and here, only eight miles from Portsmouth, better parchment than ever is being made by the same methods and the same tools that have served for centuries. **on a site where, according to local tradition, parchment has been made for 1,000 years.**

This industry has one modern piece of equipment – a steam-driven machine for splitting sheepskins – and one modern secret in a chemical formula for removing bloodstains from the parchment without damaging it. These are the only accretions which the industry has made in many centuries. All the other methods come down from the experience and the knowledge of the past. The knives which are used for scraping off fat or for putting a smooth surface on the rough back of a pelt are made in the strange bow and half-moon shapes which long use has shown to be most suitable. The drying and stretching frames and the methods of using them are primitive and yet efficient. And, finally, the last drying off of the finished parchment must be done in the open air. This cannot be hurried, nor can any artificial process be substituted for it, so that there can be no rushing to meet unexpected orders unless the weather is suitable. All through the industry there is the atmosphere of the medieval craft, and in the persons, who practise it, too, there is the spirit that is typical of an ancient industry. Most of the workmen here followed their fathers, and several of them are being followed by their sons.

A RECORD OF 1,000 YEARS.

There is a local belief that better parchment is not produced than is made here, and there is an equally confident belief that the reason for that is the spring alongside which the factory is built. This spring of hard water, which has percolated through the chalk of Portsdown Hill and which bubbles up again through the chalk and gravel to serve the parchment makers, is admitted to be the chief factor in the production of that pearly whiteness which the best parchment attains. Much lime is used in the processes, to remove grease from the skin at various stages of its preparation, but only water of this particular chalk mass can ensure the finest colour, and even water chemically compounded to imitate the water of this spring cannot give results such as it has produced steadily throughout the centuries. It is certain that there has been a skin-dressing establishment here, either tannery or parchment factory for 1,000 years, and all the honour for that splendid record and continuity is attributed to the spring.

Water goes to most of the processes of preparation. It is mixed, in the first place, with the lime applied to the sheepskins, to kill the roots of the wool, so that it may be pulled out by hand, like plucking a fowl, only much easier. Then there is a whole series of pits or, to use the local word, "pokes" containing graded solutions of lime through which the pelts are passed, beginning with the weakest and ending with the strongest. Later on they are sluiced more than once with hot water and are pumiced after being moistened with warm water. It is doubtful, therefore, if the importance of the water can be over-estimated. Nearly all the processes go slowly. The liming of the skins to loosen the wool lasts from four to ten days. The soaking of the pelts in successive 'pokes' of lime-water takes about three or four weeks. They are next laid out flat on top of each other, so that the lime may settle into them and 'plump them, or fill them out, and then they are ready for the fleshing.

This is one of the typically medieval occupations carried out still as it has been for generations. The skin is draped over what might be a segment of a barrel called a beam. The workman stands on a little platform inside this and, leaning over, scrapes the skin with downward strokes, using a two-handled, bow-shaped knife with a blunt edge. The fat rolls off in long strips, and in skilled hands the pelt is never damaged, unless a piece of grit gets under the knife. Next, it goes to the splitting machine, in which a knife separates the outer skin from the inner. It is the inner which ultimately becomes parchment. The outer, known as the

'skiver', is tanned into light leather, and used for bookbinding or lining hats and shoes. It is only during the last 100 years that the 'skiver' has been saved. Previously there was no splitting machine, and it was scraped away and wasted. The inner skin thus separated now has a fresh layer of fat for removal, and for all its subsequent processes it is stretched tight in its wooden frame.

Little balls made of skin scrapings are placed round the edges of the skin to form knobs, or 'pippins', over which slip-knots may be passed. The strings are then tightened by winding the pegs at the edges of the frame to which they are attached, and the smooth, white skin is stretched as it might be on a drum. It is treated with hot water, and the fat is scraped off with a half-moon knife, with a handle on either side of it. Then the skin goes out into the open air to dry, after which it comes back for the smoothing of its "back" surface by the process of dry-shaving with a knife of the same shape, but with a wire edge. There still remains some grease to be extracted before the parchment will take ink properly. It is, therefore, coated with a paste of whiting and soda ash, and set to dry in a hot room called the 'stove' unless the weather is warm enough for this to be done out of doors. Lastly, the whiting is sluiced off with warm water, a final polish is given to front and back with a half-moon knife and a piece of pumice stone. Then the parchment must wait for a fine day for its drying and hardening in the open air.

NOT ENOUGH SKINS.

This firm of Messrs. G. and A. Stallard is rarely working full time, but its troubles in this respect are no doubt common to the three or four other parchment factories in the country. The skins must be received fresh, before decomposition has begun to spoil their texture. This limits the area from which skins may be drawn. This firm collects by motor-lorry within a radius of 50 miles, and it has had skins from London, but these were unsatisfactory. There is the difficulty, too, that skins in the summer are less suitable, owing to the fact that the sap which should run into the wool does not get out of the skin, and the result is speckled parchment. A fairly constant supply comes all the year round from the Isle of Wight, owing to the peculiar arrangements of lambing there, and this helps to make the summer less slack. Nevertheless the supply of skins is rarely equal to the demand, especially now that so few sheep are killed at home in comparison with the number of frozen carcasses imported. Meanwhile the call for parchment grows stronger in America. Sometimes according to the manager of this firm, heavy orders have to be refused, and often the quotation of a high price is no

deterrent to those who need parchment for university certificates and diplomas, which might otherwise be lacking in impressiveness.

Thus, while home conditions and the peculiar characteristics of the industry must continue to restrict its output, there is little danger of unemployment for the men who have practised the craft so long. The foreman has just retired after 73 years' service with the firm. To-day I saw a workman who started work here 60 years ago, and, after working for a spell elsewhere, has returned to his first workshop. Another who is about to retire has worked here 58 years, and there are many grey heads bending over the skins in these old-fashioned works. They have the satisfaction of knowing that their product, bearing illuminated addresses, lies in the archives of all the great cities of the world. A few months ago they supplied the scroll on which the presentation of the freedom of Winchester to Mr. Baldwin was recorded. And they are quite convinced that, as long as their spring does not fail them, there will be a demand for their fine white parchment.

The Times, 15 October 1928

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF ENGLAND

Havant. NBR No: 96136 Parchment Works, 18 Homewell. SZ 717 062

SUMMARY

The Homewell Parchment Works is situated within Havant's historic town centre, at the south end of the Homewell and alongside the Homewell Spring from which the works drew water for manufacturing the parchment. The works originates from the late 18th or early 19th centuries and consists of nine buildings of varying dates grouped around two main yards. The principal yard, around which most of the buildings stand, was the drying yard used for drying finished parchment in the open air.

The parchment works consists of a rare and distinctive group of buildings representing the range of activities and processes involved in the craft of parchment making. The different forms and characteristics of the buildings are specific to the activities which they contained, the evidence for which has survived through more than sixty years since parchment making ceased at the works. The earliest buildings date from the late 18th or early 19th century and consist of Building Nos. 4, 7 and 8 (see block plan). Originally, No. 4 was possibly an overseer's cottage, office or gatehouse and is of brick with ceramic tiled roof.

Building No. 7, the Parchment Drying Shed, is timber-framed and was used during drying of the finished parchment. Building No. 8, the Parchment Drying Chamber, is of brick construction and was probably used for drying parchment using a kiln or oven.

The works was expanded during the early to mid 19th century with the addition of a brick-built, two-storeyed parchment workshop (Building No. 5) which was probably used for the intermediate stages of production, although its function may have been varied in later periods as further buildings were added to the works. In the mid to late 19th century the workshops were further expanded by the addition of Building No. 6 which is single-storeyed and built of brick and was probably used in the final stages of parchment making. In the same period, the works was further expanded firstly by the addition of Building No. 1 and then by Building No. 2. The former is built of brick and is of three storeys and has distinctive louvred openings on the upper doors and a slatted floor to give good ventilation between the First and second doors. It also contains two pokes (or soaking tanks) on the ground door. Building No. 2 is of brick and timber construction and contains at least sixteen pokes on the ground floor, both buildings were used in the initial stages of the process, for liming and standing the sheepskin, removing the wool and for soaking the skins in solution of lime.

The works also incorporates a mid-19th century warehouse (Building No. 9) and a workshop (Building No. 3) dating from the mid to late 19th century. Both are built of brick although the latter has been partially demolished.

Until recent months the site was used as a builder's yard by Geo. and R. Carrell Ltd. The site was sold to McCarthy and Stone in May 1997. The Homewell Parchment Works was recorded by RCHME in August 1997. At the time of recording the site was unlisted. It has since been listed Grade II. It is thought that there is only one operating parchment works in the country, at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.

This report contains written records and interpretation regarding nine buildings on the site (numbered 1-9), a key plan of the site (not to scale), plans of Buildings 2 and 8, and sections of Buildings 7 and 8. There is also an extensive large format photographic record of the site, which amounts to 54 negatives, four of which are in colour, the remainder in black and white (RCHME photographic job no: 97/1368). Report and drawings produced by Barry V. Jones. Photography by James O. Davis.

REPORT

Historical background

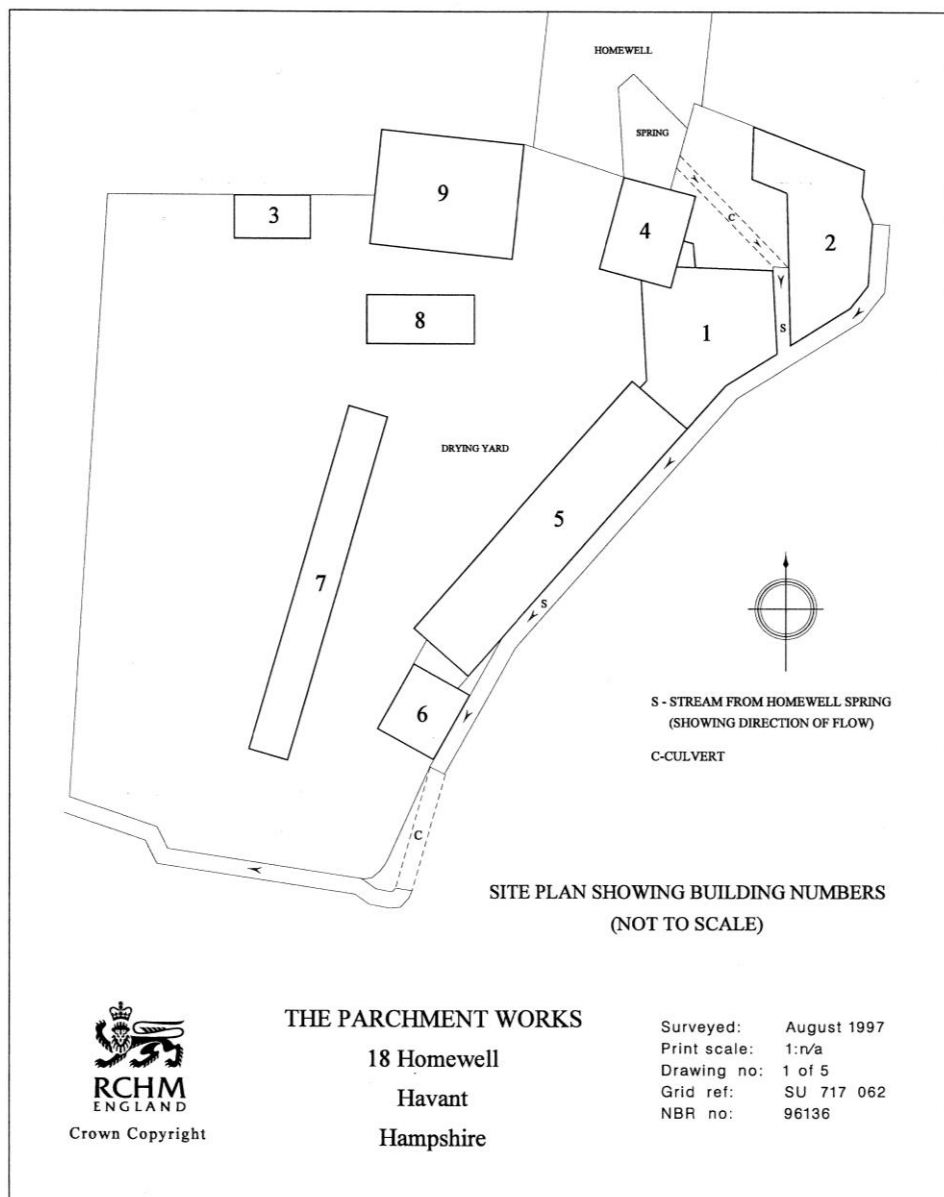
Havant has a lengthy tradition of parchment making, the origins of the industry in the town dating back hundreds of years, while many sources suggest that the activity stems back for nearer a thousand years. It is likely that parchment making commenced at the Homewell site in the late 18th or early 19th century, a map dated 1784 (see Appendices) showing the site devoid of buildings, while many of the buildings are shown on a later map dated 1833. It is known that parchment was made at Homewell in the 1830s, Pigot's Directory of Hampshire listing Richard Power, Parchment Maker and Woolstapler working at Homewell Lane. A later directory entry, dated 1847, lists Edward Stallard, Parchment Maker at Homewell. Edward's sons, George and Albert, took over from their father and ran the business under the name G. and A. Stallard.

The Post Office Directory of Hampshire, dated 1867, lists three parchment makers in the county, Albert Stallard of West Street, Havant, George Stallard of East Street, Havant and S. Holley of High Street, Stockbridge, Winchester. A George Stallard is also listed as a builder with premises on West Street, Havant. Kelly's Hampshire Directory, dated 1880, also lists S. Holley at the Winchester address and George and Albert Stallard at Homewell, Havant. George and Albert were also listed as fellmongers and George as a builder with premises on West Street, Havant. The 1880 Directory also lists Alfred Stent as a parchment maker registered on West Street, Havant. By 1903 the Kelly's Hampshire Directory lists only two parchment makers in the county, George and Albert Stallard and Alfred Stent and Sons, both listed at the address where they were trading in 1880.

Kelly's 1903 directory, which in addition to Hampshire, takes in the counties of Wiltshire, Dorsetshire and the Channel Islands, lists a total of two parchment makers, again G. and A. Stallard and Alfred Stent and Sons. Both remained at Homewell, Havant and West Street, Havant respectively. Stent was also listed as fellmonger, leather dresser and glove manufacturer. In 1926 it was reported that there were only three or four parchment businesses remaining in production, although the source does not state the geographical context for this assertion.

The Stallard family also operated a leather dressing business from the works in the Homewell, and continued to own and operate the Homewell parchment works until its closure in 1936. Thorburn Aylmore Stallard was the last member

of the Stallard family to run the business. The 1939 Directory of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight lists no parchment makers. Alfred Stent and Sons remained in the directory listed as leather dressers, located at West Street, Havant.



It is stated that Havant parchment was amongst the finest produced, a particularly white colour being attained and which conferred value on the finished product. The qualities of the spring water used in the production was given as the reason for this pure colour, water from the Homewell Spring being taken at source. The Homewell works was the last of the parchment making works in Havant.

Following the demise of parchment manufacture, the Homewell works was used as a builder's yard. This ceased in May 1997, when the then owners G. and R. Carrell Ltd sold the site to McCarthy and Stone.

Parchment Workshop No. 1

This building probably dates from the mid-19th century, although the 1833 map of Havant shows an earlier building in existence on the same site. The present building, which appears on the 1873 Ordnance Survey map, incorporates some brickwork from an earlier building (or a boundary wall), the brickwork located in the ground-floor east wall. This wall incorporates a ragged joint indicating that this earlier wall was built in two phases. The present building is built of brick and is three-storeyed, consisting of two irregular ranges, to the east and west, defined by a full-height internal brick spine wall. The building has a regular elevation facing west into the drying yard, but because of the boundary of the site, defined by the brook fed from the Homewell Spring, the south and east elevations are irregular in form and appearance, both having angled gables facing south-eastwards. The roofs are gabled with Welsh slate pitches, and the gables have oculii with brick surrounds. The original window openings have segmental brick arches.

The second floor openings are louvred as are many of those on the first floor, particularly to the east. The first floor has a taking-in door on the west elevation and is lit by only two windows, compared with the seven ventilator openings serving the second floor above. The floor structure between the first and second floors is of slatted construction to give good ventilation throughout these floors. Each of these floors contained two large rooms, one to either side of the spine wall. The ground floor has been subdivided by inserted partitions and its original plan is unclear.

The building was probably originally used in the initial stages of parchment making and has two brick-lined pokes (sheep skin soaking tanks) on the ground floor of the east range. These are now infilled, although their profiles remain

visible in the otherwise stone-flagged floor. In the late 19th century a new building (Building No. 2) was constructed to accommodate the main group of pokes, although it is possible that the pokes were always located on the site of Building No. 2 and accommodated in an earlier structure or structures of more modest proportions (this is discussed in more detail below). Therefore the pokes on the ground floor of Building No. 1 may have been associated with one of the stages of sluicing or washing the skins, and not necessarily the drawn-out three to four week process of soaking the skins in lime solutions (which took place in Building No. 2).

The pokes on the ground floor of the east range probably could be filled with water directly from the adjoining brook leading from the Homewell Spring. There is a low blocked opening in the east wall, adjacent to the northern of the two pokes, which is at a level whereby water could have been channelled between the stream and the pokes. The southern poke has a taller blocked opening on the east wall, but one which also extends down to the bed of brook, and which may have functioned in a similar way. The south poke also has an opening at water level leading into the stream, via the south wall of the building.

The ventilator openings on the first floor of the east range and throughout the second floor do not admit much natural light into the building, making these rooms impractical as working areas. This, coupled with the high degree of ventilation provided, suggests that these rooms were used for some form of storage. This would be consistent with the initial stage of manufacture in which the sheepskins are treated with lime before being hung for between four and ten days. This process allowed the lime to act upon the roots of the wool, in order that the wool could be removed from the skin with great ease. Ventilation on the second floor was also enhanced by the provision of two small openings through the spine wall dividing the two ranges, this in addition to an internal doorway. It is likely, therefore, that the second floor and part of the first floor were used for hanging the limed sheepskins.

It is probable that part of the building was also used for applying the lime to the skins prior to hanging, it being convenient and practical that the skins should not have to be transported any distance across the site to be hung up after the lime had been applied. There is a trap door between the first and second floors of the east range, and this was probably used for lifting the sheepskins between the floors before and after hanging.

Following the processes of applying lime and hanging, the wool was plucked out by hand, the earlier treatment of the lime on the roots preventing damage to the skins while the wool was being removed. It is likely that this latter process also took place in Building No. 1, prior to the skins being taken down to the pokes for the next stage of production involving soaking in lime solution. In a later phase of operations at the works, following the construction of Building No. 2, it is possible that the liming of the sheepskins and/or removal of the wool took place on the first floor of Building No. 2. This would have been possible using a first floor landing which exists between the two buildings and which has an external wooden stair down to the ground floor area of the pokes. However, the first floor entrance on the east wall of Building No. 1, associated with this external stair, has rounded brick jambs matching those of the original ground floor entrance on the west wall. This indicates that the building may always have had a first floor entrance on the east wall, prior to the construction of Building No. 2. This would have allowed easy access between Building No. 1 and the main area of pokes situated to the north east. Sheepskins and lime could be easily lifted between the ground and first floors by means of two taking-in doors, one serving the east range and one serving the west range. These are located on the north and west elevations respectively.

There was formerly a brick flue extending upwards against the spine wall, and projecting into the space of the east range. The flue has been struck back to the face of the wall leaving a scar. The function of this flue is no longer clear, although it may have been used for heating one of the rooms on the ground or first floor, or possibly for providing heat to a process, possible heating water.

The north wall of the east range has a wide entrance, with a segmental brick arch, on the ground floor. There is a second wide entrance to the east of the first, but this has a wooden lintel associated with slivers of tile used to make up the surrounding wall. Also, the brick jambs are cut through header and stretcher bricks rather than being made up with quarter brick closers. This indicates that the eastern wide entrance has been cut through in a later phase. There is a further inserted wide entrance on the ground floor of the west range, on the west elevation. This entrance has a rolled steel lintel cutting the remains of the arched heads of two original openings. The ground floor window openings on the east wall have been inserted or widened, as is indicated by the ragged nature of the brick jambs which are faced with cement and by the steel window frames.

The ground floor of the eastern range has a circular section cast-iron column supporting a rolled wrought-iron or steel joist set on a north to south axis. This supports timber joists and conventional floorboards. There is a matching cast-iron column, beam and joist arrangement on the first floor of this range. The west range has a series of three rolled wrought-iron or steel beams spanning the width of the range. The west range is of a narrower span and therefore does not require any columns. The rolled wrought-iron or steel joists forming the floor structures may represent a phase of alterations or strengthening of the floor structures, but this is uncertain.

The east range has a three-bay roof structure with two trusses. That of the west range is four bays long and has three trusses. The trusses throughout are of wrought-iron or steel construction, the form of which may be seen in RCHME photographic coverage of the building. It is possible that the roof structure has been renewed during the early 20th century.

During subsequent phases the following alterations were made to the building. The spine wall was partly cut away on the first floor and supported with two rolled steel joists and a reused circular-section cast-iron column. A patch of brickwork on the first floor at the north end of the spine wall is not coursed into the adjoining brickwork and this may be evidence of a first floor doorway between this and Building No. 4. In the early 20th century the north wall was abutted by an extension of Building No. 4, which blocked one bay of openings on the north wall of Building No. 1.

Parchment Workshop (Building No. 2)

This building dates from the late 19th century and is first shown on the 1895-6 Ordnance Survey map. The building is of two storeys and has an irregular L plan (see RCHME plan) the south-east corner of which is angled to respect the curve of an adjacent stream. The ground floor walls to the north and east are built of brick on a flint plinth. The ground floor elevations facing the yard to the west were originally open to the exterior, facing the stream from the Homewell Spring. The open ground floor elevations have timber posts and lintels, the posts carried on stone pads. The first floor walls are of timber stud construction faced with weatherboarding. The building has four parallel gabled roofs with reconstituted tiles. The south end of the main building corresponds with the southerly beam shown on the plan. There is a lean-to beyond this to the south.

The ground floor contains a series of at least sixteen pokes (or skin soaking tanks) that are sunk into the floor and constructed with brick sides. The size and disposition of the pokes may be seen on the plan. There are two large pokes towards the north end of the room and then two rows of smaller pokes extending southwards along the length of the building. At the time of recording the floor was obstructed with materials and vehicles in storage as well as a significant build-up of dirt and earth. It is possible that there are other pokes which were not exposed at the time of recording. The pokes were supplied with water from the adjacent Homewell Spring, the brook passing along the south-west front of the building. When in production the pokes contained solutions of lime and water into which the sheepskins, once stripped of wool, were put to soak. The lime solution was graded from one poke to the next in order that the sheepskins could be first soaked in a weak solution then gradually moved through the pokes until the final soaking which took place in a solution with the greatest concentration of lime. This soaking process took three to four weeks. The sheepskins then passed through various intermediate stages of production, part of which involved removing fat from the skins and then splitting the dermis from the epidermis. It is probable that these intermediate processes took place in other buildings on the site (see below).

The 1873 Ordnance Survey map shows the site of Building No. 2 prior to the erection of the building. On the same site there are two linear structures which follow the course of the streams on either side of the site. It is possible that these structures were associated with parchment making and that they contained the pokes prior to the construction of Building No. 2.

The ground floor has a series of four wooden transverse beams supported by circular section cast-iron columns. The columns stand on stone pads and the beams carry conventional wooden floorboards. The first floor of Building No. 2 consists of a large room open to the roof. Its original function is uncertain, although it is possible that it was used for storing lime for mixing into solution with the spring water. It may also have been used in conjunction with Building No. 1 for treating the freshly received sheepskins with lime and/or removing the wool from the sheepskins prior to soaking in the pokes on the ground floor. The first floor has a taking-in door on the west wall of the projecting north bay, but this doorway is a late-20th century alteration, the doorway taking the place of a segmental-headed sash window shown in photographs of the site.

In recent years the ground floor was used as garage. The pokes were infilled but not removed, and the open bays were enclosed by fitting sets of wooden double doors. The taking-in door, mentioned above, was installed in order to allow the first floor to function as a builders' and carpenters' store.

Workshop (Building No. 3)

This workshop was built in the period between 1866 and 1896, as is indicated by Ordnance Survey maps of those dates (see Appendices). It is built of brick and was formerly of two-storeys with a gabled roof of Welsh slate. The roof structure, first floor and east wall have been demolished. The south (front) wall was originally three bays (window bays) long, the original ground floor windows having segmental brick arches and those on the first floor having wooden lintels. The entrance was in the east wall, the door frame remaining in place despite the demolition of the wall. The ground floor consists of a single room with a ceramic block floor. The precise function of this building is unclear, but its position away from the main process buildings suggests that it may have served an ancillary function, possibly providing a workshop for making and maintaining the wooden parchment frames. There are transverse joists carrying the first floor and which are supported at mid-span by a longitudinal wooden beam.

In the mid-20th century two windows were inserted on the south wall, lighting the ground floor. These have concrete lintels and steel frames.

Building to east of main gates (Building No. 4)

The earliest phase of this building probably dates from the late 18th or early 19th century, the date suggested by the brickwork which has flared glazed bricks of grey/blue set against red bricks, and by the 1833 map of Havant which shows a building in this position by that date. The building was originally of a single storey, as is indicated by a change in brick colour at storey height and by the absence of glazed bricks in the first-floor walls. It has a rectangular plan with an east to west axis and was a single room wide and two or more rooms deep. Its' original function is unclear, although its position at the entrance to the works may suggest that it was an office or gatehouse, or it may have been an overseer's dwelling. It is now adjoined to the south-east by Building No. 1.

In the mid-19th century the building was raised in height to two-storeys, the first floor also built of brick, but lacking the glazed bricks found on the ground floor. The original roof was either demolished or reset at its present height. It is gabled

and has a dentilled brick cornice at the eaves and a covering of plain tiles on the north slope. The south slope is of Welsh slate which is probably a later form of covering.

The building was extended substantially in the early 20th century, with the addition of a two-storeyed range adjoining the north and east walls of the original block, and which extends across the east end of the original building. The addition is built of orange/red brick and is parallel with the original block. The roof is gabled and has Welsh slate pitches. The openings have segmental brick arches, the windows have concrete sills.

The roof structure is three bays long and has two substantial timber and iron trusses. These consist of timber principal rafters and a timber collar. The feet of the principal rafters are tied to the centre of the collar soffit by inclined wrought-iron or steel tie-rods. The apex of the principal rafters is formed by an angled cast-iron plate set beneath the rafter soffits, and which is linked to the collar by a vertical wrought-iron (or steel) suspension rod. The south end of each truss is set on top of a brick buttress within the building. The north end of each truss is set into the north wall of the building. The contrasting means of supporting the opposing ends of the trusses may be evidence of the trusses having been reused from another building, the arrangement creating a ridge which is off-centre to the north of the addition.

In recent years the first-floor structure of the early 20th century addition has been removed leaving the interior open from the ground floor to the roof.

Parchment Workshop (Building No. 5)

This workshop probably dates from the early to mid-19th century, and a building is shown in the same position on maps dated 1833 and 1847 (see Appendices). The building has a distinctive form reflecting its original use although the processes within it may have changed over the 19th century as further workshops (Building Nos. 1 and 2) were built to its north. There is a ragged joint in the east wall, at the north end of the building, which indicates that Building No. 5 predates Building No. 1. It is probable that the workshop was used for the intermediate stages of parchment making, for removing fat from the skin and splitting the skins to separate the dermis and epidermis. The building may also have been used in the by-product stages of producing leather from the outer skin or epidermis. It is built of brick and originally was two-storeyed (it is now single-storeyed) as is indicated by a diminishing wall thickness on the internal

wall face between the lower and upper rows of windows. Also part of the first floor remains at the north end of the building. The ground floor ceiling height was low, giving a distinctive sectional form at this level. The building has a long rectangular plan and has a gabled roof with Welsh slate pitches. It has ground-floor window openings with segmental brick arches, the first-floor openings having wooden lintels. The interior is subdivided by a brick cross-wall through which there are internal doorways on the ground and first floors. To the north of this wall the ground floor is comparatively poorly lit, with small window openings. The ground-floor room to the south is well-lit with four closely-spaced windows of noticeably larger dimensions. The first floor is uniformly lit throughout and has skylights. There are ceramic ventilation blocks at storey height. The ground-floor windows have steel frames, those of the former first floor have wooden frames. The roof structure consists of common rafters with a single set of side purlins, and the rafters coupled by collars at regular intervals.

At the south end of the main range there is a small single-storeyed range with a single-roomed plan, which is probably contemporary with the remainder of the building. This is indicated by a brick buttress on the south wall of the main range, the buttress forming part of the south block. The associated brickwork indicates that this buttress has not been added to the main range, and therefore that the south block was probably planned as part of the original phase. The south block is three bays long and is constructed using timber posts on stone pads, the buttress on the south wall associated with the timber arcade of the north-west wall. The timber bays of the south-east elevation were later blocked using brick, and a brick outshot was added to the west. The roof is gabled with a later covering of corrugated asbestos and iron. The roof structure has been renewed in the mid to late 20th century. The timber posts have been tied by wrought-iron tension rods which form diagonal ties from the four corners of the building and are linked by a circular bracket in the centre of the room. The windows have wooden lintels and frames.

The south block probably accommodated one of the final processes prior to drying. This involved removing the final layers of grease from the parchment by applying a solution of whiting and soda ash to the parchment which was then allowed to dry. The parchment was then washed using hot water. An article relating to the parchment works includes a photograph of the interior of this building with the accompanying caption identifying this as housing the final

process before drying.¹⁰ These activities may have been carried out in conjunction with Building No. 6.

Parchment Workshop (Building No. 6)

This building probably dates from the mid-19th century. It is not shown on the 1847 map but is shown on the 1873 revised Ordnance Survey map. It was probably used in the latter stages of parchment making. The building is single-storeyed, built of brick and is rectangular in plan. It has a single-roomed plan. The gabled roof has a continuous ventilator at the ridge and a covering of Welsh slates. The floor is concrete and incorporates two parallel drainage channels to lead water off through two small openings in the south wall. The main entrance to the building is in the west wall, the doorway and the window openings having wooden lintels. The entrance has a reused 19th century door of four panel design with a domestic-style door knocker.

The roof structure is three bays long and has tie-beam trusses with queen posts supporting a plate on which the ventilator at the ridge is constructed. There are principal rafters rising to the same plate, and a collar above the plate and queen posts. The ventilator has a ridge plank.

Parchment Drying Shed (Building No. 7)

This drying shed probably dates from the late 18th or early 19th century and is shown on the 1833 map of Havant. The building is of timber construction and was originally L-shaped in plan, with the main range on a roughly north-south axis and a wing at the north end, projecting to the east. The wing has been demolished. The remainder of the building is eleven bays long, although the original wall plate and associated braces survive for a twelfth bay at the north end of the building. The building, which stands on the west side of the drying yard, was used for storing the parchment frames (on which the parchment was stretched for the finishing stages of production) at times when the weather was unsuitable for drying the finished parchment in the open air. The building is now covered with corrugated iron sheeting, including the gabled roof.

The building has timber posts standing on stone pads, the posts defining the bays of the building. The constructional details associated with the posts are of two contrasting forms, found in alternate bays. The first type of construction, which is probably the original, consists of posts that extend only part-way up to the present eaves level and terminate at a rail which is probably the original wall

plate (see RCHME cross-section). Each of the joints associated with these posts is morticed, tenoned and pegged. The second type of post consists of a taller timber extending from the pad stone to the present eaves height and has no associated pegged joints. The timber used for the two types of post display contrasting qualities of timber colour and texture, the first type having a more mellow tone and worn texture, which also points to the likelihood that these are earlier than the full-height posts. The rail which marks the head of the shorter posts continues across the top of each post and receives the pegged tenon on the head of the post. The rail has a continuous chamfer on its external upper arris, as though it were intended to receive the soffit of common rafters. This indicates that the rail was probably a wall plate, and therefore marks the original eaves height, indicating that the building has been raised in height at a later date. The pronounced contrast in detail between the two types of post and the fact that the full-height posts bear no carpentry joints, is also evidence of this raising. There are straight, upward braces from the shorter posts to the original wall plate. The braces are morticed, tenoned and pegged at each end, whereas at the taller posts they are pegged only to the original wall plate.

On the ground floor, the building was originally open to the drying yard, presumably to allow the parchment frames to be moved in and out with ease. There was a low ceiling with transverse beams and axial joists supporting the first floor. However, this floor structure has been lowered and now rests on inserted timber posts, while mortices for the transverse beams survive on the original posts, indicating the original height of the floor. The beams bear carpenter's marks numbered from south to north, the second beam from the south end being numbered II and then so on northwards. The south end beam has been replaced, thus removing the number I from the sequence of carpenter's marks. The first floor would have had particularly restricted headroom, and its' original function is unclear, although it may also have been used for storing parchment frames.

In a later phase the roof was raised in height to provide greater headroom on the first floor. In order to achieve this, alternate posts were removed and replaced by tall posts extending up to the new eaves height. No carpentry joints were used in this phase, which probably took place in the late 19th or early 20th century. The raised walls of the first floor were well-ventilated and the floor was probably used for drying parchment or standing the parchment frames during times of

inclement weather. The building is shown in this form in an article on the works published in 1926. The roof has common rafters and a plank ridge.

In the mid-20th century the first floor structure was lowered to its present height, probably to allow the first floor to be used as a builder's store.

Parchment Drying Shed (Building No. 8)

The 1833 map of Havant shows a building in this position, while the general characteristics of the building suggest that it probably dates from the late 18th or early 19th century. The form of the building (see RCHME long section) indicates that it was used as a kiln or oven, and it is probably the "special hot chamber" referred to in the 1926 account of the works and which was used for drying the finished parchment in times of damp weather. It may, alternatively, have been used for drying the parchment after the application of whiting and soda ash, and prior to the final scalding. The building is rectangular in plan and built of brick and has a hipped roof with Welsh slate pitches. It was originally of two-storeys but the original floor structure has been removed to give a tall single storey. The building is four bays long (roof bays), the two western bays forming a kiln or oven.

The ground floor walls in the two western bays are thicker than the remainder of the walls, while the scar of the kiln or oven floor may be seen immediately above the thicker walls. The thicker walls rise to a height 1.9 metres above ground level. The brickwork is bonded and coursed throughout, indicating that the thicker sections of wall are original. These two bays are surmounted by a timber, lath and plaster hood which bears blackening from the smoke produced in the process. The remainder of the roof slopes are also underdrawn with lath and plaster but do not bear the same blackening found within the hood. The hood was surmounted by a louvred ventilator, shown in a photograph published in the 1926 article on the works. There was a partition at first-floor level between the oven and the two bays to its east. This has been removed but the evidence for it remains on the tie-beam soffit, in the form of patches of discolouration and nails. At the centre span there is a clean portion of tie-beam where the evidence for the partition is interrupted. This suggests that there was a doorway in the centre of the partition, which would have led, at first floor level, between the oven and the two eastern bays.

The building had a low ground-floor ceiling (1.78 metres above ground level) which probably allowed just enough headroom for the parchment frames to stand within the building. There are blocked joist sockets in the internal face of the east wall, at 1.78 metres (height of soffit) above the ground. The sockets are 0.27 metres high and are situated above a wooden pad set into the inner face of the wall. There are various blockings in the inner face of the north and south walls, which are probably blocked beam sockets. The beam positions, as indicated by the blockings, are shown on the plan of the ground floor.

The east end of the building, facing out into the drying yard, has its original wide entrance, which has a rolled steel lintel at 2.4 metres above the ground. The jambs have quarter bricks rising to a height of 1.7 metres above ground level indicating the original height of the entrance and that both jambs of the doorway are original and therefore that the entrance has not been widened. Between the rolled steel lintel and the termination of the quarter bricks (i.e. between 1.7 and 2.4 metres) the brick jambs have been altered, indicating that the head of the doorway has been raised in height. The original head of the door would have been of sufficient height to allow the parchment frames to be transferred to and from the building. The great width of the entrance was probably to allow freedom of movement for the frames coming in and out of the yard. Such an arrangement for the frames would have been compatible with the ground floor of the drying shed (Building No. 7), which was also open with low wide openings on the ground floor.

Two narrower entrances (one now blocked) exist side by side on the north elevation. These are both original as is indicated by the existence of quarter bricks in the jambs. They have segmental brick arches. Both give access into the east end of the building. One probably led, possibly via a stair, to the kiln on the first floor the other into the ground floor. It is likely that two separate entrances were used in order to keep the kiln fuel and smoke away from the parchments, these being rendered worthless if damaged by soot or dirt.

There is an original window on the north wall, at first-floor level, above the paired entrances. This has a wooden lintel and pivoting wooden casement. There is an original window above the main entrance on the east elevation. This has a timber lintel and fixed wooden frame. That the window is original is indicated by quarter bricks in the jambs. Towards the west end of the north elevation there is a large first-floor window, the brick jambs and a cill of which have been made up

with replacement brickwork, indicating that the window is inserted. The south and west walls are blind.

The roof structure is of four bays and consists of three trusses with tie-beams and raked queen struts supporting a single set of side purlins. The purlins carry common rafters.

Warehouse (Building No.9)

The warehouse is built of brick, is two-storeyed and dates from the mid 19th century. It is not shown on the 1847 Tithe map but is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1866. It stands at the north end of the site at the entrance to the works. That it is a warehouse is indicated by a taking-in door and crane on the first floor eastern wall, and by the existence of massive chamfered and stopped beams on the ground floor. The building consists of a main block on an east to west axis and a later outshut on its north side. The main block has a gabled roof with reconstituted tiled pitches. The gabled front (east) elevation of the main block is three window bays long. The south elevation has inserted window and door openings with concrete lintels and rebuilt brickwork at the jambs. The west (rear) elevation was originally two bays long, but the fenestration has been altered to give a single bay. The original door and window openings have segmental brick arches, and the remains of these provide the evidence for the original two bay arrangement of the rear elevation.

The entrance was originally in the central bay of the front (east) wall. This is demonstrated by the jambs which have quarter bricks extending down to the ground, and by ragged joints beneath the jambs of the present window. The present entrance has been cut through an original window opening in the northern bay of the front wall. The taking-in door is on the first floor in the central bay of the front wall, directly above the position of the original ground-floor entrance. There is a crane jib fastened to the wall adjacent to the taking-in door, on its north side. The jib is made of wrought iron. The door retains its original frame with an iron rope roller fastened to the head, to guard the frame against rubbing from the hoisting rope. The door is of plank construction and is of the split type, resembling a stable door.

The ground floor has been subdivided to form offices. However, the chamfers and straight stops of the ceiling beams indicate that the ground floor originally comprised a large open room. The first floor remains as a large room, latterly used as an office. At the time of recording the roof space was inaccessible.

In the late 19th century an outshut was built against the north wall. The outshut is also built of brick and is of one and a half storeys. It has been rendered on the north elevation. There is also a taking-in door on the east wall of the oushut. Photographs of the building, taken in 1980, show that there was an external wooden stair leading up to this doorway.

The north wall has a break-back towards the middle of the elevation. This may indicate the outshut was built in two phases. There was no access to this elevation at the time of recording because of a land ownership/occupation boundary.

In the mid to late 20th century the building was converted into an office. This entailed the construction of partitions on the ground floor, moving the front entrance into its present position and inserting a suspended ceiling on the first floor.

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FIRE

A fire occurred on Saturday evening Inst at Messrs. G. and A. Stallard's. Fellmongers, Homewell. The alarm was given about 6.40, and the Fire Brigade, under Captain Stent, were very prompt in answering to the call. The brigade worked with a will, and so averted the serious loss which at one time seemed inevitable. The fire is supposed to have originated in the engine-room, and the damage is considerable, as a store adjoining and two stores above, used for storing skins and wool, are completely gutted. The loss is partly covered by insurance in the Norwich Union Fire Office. This is the first fire the new Fire Brigade has been called to.

Hampshire Telegraph, 24th May 1888

A PARCHMENT MAKER'S FUNERAL

On Saturday last, December 6, 1890, the remains of Mr John St. Aubyn Mason were buried at Havant Cemetery, the Rev. Canon Renaud officiating. Mr. Mason who died on the 1st inst. aged 49, leaves a wife and large family. He had been employed for many years by Mr. A. Stent, fellmonger, Havant, and was much respected. Nine parchment makers, of the firm G and A Stallard, carried the

deceased from his late residence to the grave, and about twenty parchment makers and skinners from Mr. A. Stent's yard followed immediately behind the chief mourners.

Evening News, 8th December 1890

WORKMEN'S OUTING

The employees of Messrs. G. and A. Stallard, parchment manufacturers of Havant, had their annual outing on Monday, and paid a visit to Ryde. The party, numbering 25, left Havant by the 8.45 train, and being favoured with fairly fine weather, were enabled to witness the regatta and sports on shore. Dinner was served at the Albany Hotel, Mr. A. Crook presiding, and a brief toast list was gone through, "Continued Prosperity to the Firm" being the chief sentiment expressed.

Evening News, 3rd August 1892

DEATH OF OLD RESIDENT

The death of Mr. George Stallard, head of the well-known firm of Messrs. G. and A. Stallard, parchment manufacturers, of Havant, took place on Saturday, at his residence, East End House, Havant, at the advanced age of 78 years. He had been in failing health for about ten years. Born in Buriton, near Petersfield, he came to Havant 60 years ago, succeeding, in conjunction with his brother Albert, his father, in business. He was one of the earliest members of the Havant Volunteer Company, and was a very prominent shot, having represented the company on various occasions. He had very few equals as a game shot, in which he was keenly interested. He was a sportsman in every sense of the word, some 50 years ago he captained the Havant Cricket Club. As a public man he was on the Local Board of Health, and was a Director of the Havant Gas Company. The funeral will take place on Wednesday.

Evening News, 26 June 1906

DIAMOND WEDDING – Mr. and Mrs. Crook

Congratulations have been showered upon Mr. and Mrs. Albert Crook, of Lester Avenue, Havant, Hants, who celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding, which took place at St. Simon's, Southsea.

Mrs. Crook (née Tague) was a local bride and a member of a family which had long and honourable associations with the town. Mr. Crook was born in Oxford, and developed the craft of parchment-making, with which he begun activities at

Sawston. in Cambridge. Afterwards exercised the same art at Wallingford and Stockbridge. He came to Havant and entered the service of Messrs. G. and A. Stallard in August 62 years ago and he remained with the firm nearly 60 years. He is convinced that Havant parchment is superior to any other in the world. When he retired he was presented on behalf of the firm with a handsome chiming clock.

"The secret of married bliss and long life?" said Mr. Crook in reply to a query by our correspondent. "Well; it is this: live under a good religious influence, work hard and regularly, rest regularly and play regularly."

Mr. Crook vividly remembers the wedding of Dr. and Mrs. A. S. Norman 50 years ago. "I told the doctor the other day how I remembered the streamers and bunting fluttering over South Street on his wedding day, and he seemed a little surprised when I told him that we were married 10 years previous. Havant is a great place for longevity and solid friendship. My wife's father worked for over 60 years in Foster's tanyard, and I have lived to see two generations of the fine Stallard family."

Mr. and Mrs. Crook are highly respected and are devoted to each other. Especially does the Congregational Church fraternity hope they may long enjoy their well-earned happiness.

Evening News, 20 February 1932

Havant Parchment Maker's Funeral

A link with the widely renowned Havant parchment industry was severed by the death of Mr. Alfred Wilfred Crook, which took place at Hythe recently. He was 92 years of age and for 60 years was a parchment maker for Messrs Stallard at Homewell, Havant.

Evening News, 31 May 1944

DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given, that the co-partnership hitherto subsisting between us, under the firm of Messrs James White and William Power, of Havant, in the County of Southampton, Fellmongers, Parchment and Glue-Makers, was this day dissolved by mutual consent.

Witness our hands this 27th day of August 1821. James White, Wm Power.

The above business will in future be carried on under the firm of Messrs James White, William Power and Richard Power.

Notice is hereby given, that the Co-partnership hitherto subsisting between us, under the firm of Messrs Thomas and James Hewett, of Havant, in the County of Southampton, Tanners, was this day dissolved by mutual consent.

Witness our hands 24th day of August 1821. Thos Hewett, Jas Hewett

The business will in future be carried on by Mr James Hewett.

London Gazette, 1 September 1821

A CITATION OF T. A, STALLARD



Mr. T. A. Stallard

Stallard: Thorburn Aylmore Stallard, The Laburnums, Havant; son of George Stallard, of Havant; born at Havant, September 29th, 1858; educated at Ardingly College, Haywards Heath. Member of the firm of Messrs. G. and A. Stallard, parchment manufacturers, of Havant and Newport, Isle of Wight; member of the Urban District Council; a Manager of the Voluntary and Council Schools; was a member of the School Board for several years; was for twelve years Hon. Secretary to the Havant Athletic Club; member of the Committee of the Conservative Association for the Havant District; takes great interest in musical matters, and has been for upwards of thirty years a member of the Choir of the Parish Church and Chairman of the Havant Choral Society, Married, in 1884, Bessie, daughter of the late Charles Hooley of Swansea. [He died in 1923. Effects: £14,686 3s. 1d.]

RICHARD JAMES POWER – BANKRUPTCY

Whereas a Fiat in Bankruptcy is awarded and issued forth against Richard James White Power, of Havant. in the County of Southampton, Fellmonger, Woolstapler and Parchment-Maker, Dealer and Chapman, and he being declared a Bankrupt is hereby required to surrender himself to the Commissioners in the said Fiat, named, or the major part of them, on the 24th and 30th days of April instant, and on the 22nd of May next, at Twelve Noon on each day, at the Bear Inn, at Havant, in the County of Southampton, and make a full discovery and disclosure of his

estate and effects : when and where the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts, and at the first sitting to choose Assignees, and at the last sitting the said Bankrupt is required to finish his examination, and the Creditors are to assent to or dissent from the allowance of his certificate. All persons indebted to the said Bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, are not to day or deliver the same but to whom the Commissioners shall appoint, but give notice to Messrs Stevens and Longcroft, Solicitors, Havant, or to Messrs Gude and Gordon, Solicitors, No. 83, Lombard-street, London.

Hampshire Telegraph, 16 April 1832

THE COURT FOR RELIEF OF INSOLVENT DEBTORS, N.B. – See the Notice at the end of these Advertisements The Matters of the PETITIONS and SCHEDULES of the PRISONERS hereinafter named (the same having been filed in the Court) are appointed to be heard at the Court-House, in Portugal Street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, on Tuesday the 4h day of February 1836, at Nine o'clock in the Forenoon.

William Irish, late of West-street, Havant, in the County of Hants, Fellmonger, Parchment-Maker, Leather-Dresser, Glover, and Dairyman.

London Gazette, 10 April 1832

USE of HAVANT PARCHMENT

Percy John Delf Smith, RDI (Royal Designer for Industry), was a member of the Royal Society of Arts. A painter, calligrapher and book designer, he studied in London and exhibited at the R.A. He lettered several warship plaques, including the one for HMS *Oribi*, which was adopted by Havant during World War Two.

Unable to attend the invitation to the presentation of the Oribi plaque he wrote to Albert Madgwick of Havant Urban District Council saying, 'Your town makes excellent parchment! I have used a great deal of Havant Parchment in manuscript books which I have written now and again for a good many years and it has always been remarkably good to work upon. You ought to have a war memorial book and let me do it on Havant Parchment!!'

Percy Smith died in 1948 aged ninety-seven.

It Happened in Hampshire – Industries, Past & Present

Parchment

At Havant this is an industry of long standing, as **it is known that the Romans made parchment on this very spot where the factory now stands**. The reason for this site having been chosen is the existence of numerous springs, the **water of which contains the special properties** needed for steeping the hides. This industry requires skilled craftsmanship, almost all being carried out by hand, and only one machine, this for skin splitting, being used. Vellum is also made here, the skins of calves being used, while parchment requires the skins of sheep. The former is used for drum heads, banjos and the like.

G & A Stallard in Newport, Isle of Wight

Trade directories list G & A Stallard as having a business in Newport on the Isle of Wight. From 1898 to 1931 they were dyers, fellmongers, tanners and brewers at 44 and 45 Crocker Street and in 1935 at 43 Crocker Street. Crocker Street backed onto the Lukely stream, which provided water and was canalised to take barges from the brewery to the town quay. Simon Dear of the Isle of Wight Record Office kindly provided the following information:

I have found that 'G and A Stallard' had a Fellmonger business at 44-45 Crocker Street by the time of our 1886 Street Directory. There is no record, however, of any member of that family living on the island.

The business continued under the same name until our 1935 Directory but had disappeared by 1937.

A search of the Ordnance Survey maps show a Tannery marked at the correct location in 1908, and the same building layout exists as early as the 1862 map, although the site is not named. The site backs onto a stream and has a wooden building across the width of the site parallel with the river.

On the Census, there are 31 references to Fellmongers between 1841 and 1911, the vast majority of whom live in Newport. Many of these men lived on Hearn Street, a short distance from Crocker Street. As none of them live at their work premises however it is not possible to say which of them might work at the Crocker Street works and which might have worked elsewhere.

If you would like copies of the OS maps of the site in 1862, 1898 and 1908 then these can be provided, although there would be a charge for this service. If you have any record of the foremen who might have run the Crocker Street

on behalf of George Stallard, then it may be possible to find further information about them through our sources. It is also possible to provide copies of any or all of the references to 'G and A' Stallard in the Street Directories held at this office, although there would be an additional charge for this.

The Stallards in Buriton

Doug Jones – Buriton Heritage Bank

Before moving to Havant, the Stallard family had lived in Buriton (near Petersfield) where they had started their parchment business and developed their skills.

Edward Stallard was baptised in Buriton in 1792 and married his wife, Charlotte, in 1812. He appears to have had a number of occupations during his time in the village including a publican, collar-maker, a fellmonger (someone who prepares hides for leather making) and a parchment maker.

By the time of the census in 1841 it is clear that the family, who were living in North Lane, Buriton, was heavily involved in parchment making. A yard just north of what is now Pillmead House is thought to be the location of their business.

Edward's sons George and Albert (baptised in 1828 and 1831 respectively) assisted their father as parchment makers and the family continued to work in Buriton until about 1847 when they moved to the Homewell Parchment Yard in Havant.

All the raw materials for parchment making lay in abundance around Buriton. Thousands of sheep used to graze on the downs above the village, providing a ready supply of the animal skins used in the making of parchment. The skins would first be treated with lime for several days to loosen the wool so that it could be removed and then soaked in graded solutions of lime and water for about three weeks. There were also plentiful supplies of lime around Buriton, drawing upon the chalk from the South Downs and using local kilns to produce lime for a wide range of purposes.

The story of Edward G. J. Stallard. 1815-1898, Buriton

Throughout the 18th and 19th Centuries, Edward's family lived and moved within a corridor on the eastern edge of Hampshire, stretching from Petersfield south to the coast along the road from London to Portsmouth. The earliest of

Edward's known ancestors lived in Catherington, but aside from their names, little of their story is known.

Edward's grandfather, William Stallard, came to Buriton (pronounced Berrytun) to marry Olive Patrick in 1787. There Edward Sr paid for his 14-year-old son, Edward, to be apprenticed to local carpenter Henry Hall. Perhaps he showed no promise in woodworking, as he was soon employed with his father in the family trade of leather working.

Grandfather William's occupation is unknown, but each of his three sons, William, James and Edward Sr were leather workers or fellmongers. Uncle William manufactured leather gloves and his wife Elizabeth was a hat maker. They ran a shop on the High Street in Petersfield. Edward Sr was a fellmonger, saddler and horse collar maker in Buriton.

Edward was also a saddler, and like his father, spent his bachelor years on the south coast. He met Ann Chalcraft while living in Gosport, a ferry ride across the harbour from Portsmouth. They married in nearby Alverstoke in 1837 and then returned to Buriton where his father had taken over The Five Bells tavern. Grandma Olive had died a few years earlier, and for a short time both Edward and his father split their efforts between the pub and leather working.

Edward Sr gave up The Five Bells in favour of his new venture, parchment making, an extension of fellmongering. Whereas leather is tanned animal skin, parchment is stretched animal skin, once soaked in lime then dried. Sometime around 1840, Edward Sr. took over the parchment yard on the North Lane, just south of his residence. He and his family lived well, employing a servant and possessing a large home where all but his four eldest children lived.

A notice in the *London Gazette* of 14 June 1844 shows that Edward Sr had become bankrupt:

STALLARD FAMILY

1787

WILLIAM STALLARD = OLIVE PATRICK

Bapt 24 Jan 1764

Catherington

d. 20 Oct 1820

b. 17 Sept 1760

Buriton

d. 18 Oct 1834 Buriton

1812

EDWARD STALLARD = CHARLOTTE TODMAN

Bapt 29 Apr 1792

Buriton

d. 7 May 1869

Parchment Maker

b. c. 1794

d. 18 Jun 1876

Havant

1833

JAMES STALLARD = MARIA WELLS

Bapt 7 Apr 1795 Buriton

d. 1867 Havant

Parchment Maker

b. c. 1802

Farrington

d. ? 1886 Havant

1853

GEORGE STALLARD = CHARLOTTE

Bapt 3 Aug 1828

Buriton

d. 23 Jun 1906

Parchment Maker

b. c. 1828

Bapt 10 Jan 1829

Warblington

d. 1881

1858

ALBERT STALLARD = ELLEN LIPSCOMB

Bapt 13 Feb 1831

Buriton

d. 1911 Havant

Parchment Maker

b. 1836

Warblington

d. 1893

1856

GEORGE STALLARD = ANN JENNINGS

Bapt 1 Aug 1834

Buriton

d. 17 Mar 1917

Building Contractor

b. 9 Apr 1828

d. 1866

1884

THORBURN AYLMORE = BESSIE HOOLEY

Bapt 1859

d. 1923

Parchment Maker

b. c. 1853

d. 2 Mar 1941

1883

JESSIE STALLARD = RICHARD JOSHUA

WELLS

b. ? 1866

d. 7 Feb 1923

Congregational Minister

1887

ALFRED EDWIN = ELLEN MARY

STALLARD

b. 1861

d. 8 Jan 1953

Architect

b. 1862

d. 1953

REGINALD TOM STALLARD

b. 7 Apr 1888

d. ? 1962

Architect's Assistant (1911)

Edward Stallard – Bankruptcy

I, EDWARD STALLARD, at present, and for twelve months past, residing in the parish of Buriton, near Petersfield, in the county of Southampton, and being a Fellmonger and Parchment Maker, do hereby give notice, that I intend to present a Petition to the Court of Bankruptcy, in Basinghall-street, London, praying to be examined touching my debts, estate, and effects, and to be protected from all process, upon making a full disclosure and surrender of such estate and effects, for payment of my just and lawful debts; and I hereby further give notice, that the time, when the matter of the said Petition shall be heard, is to be advertized in the London Gazette and in the Hampshire Chronicle newspaper, one month at the least after the date hereof:

As witness my hand, this 7th day of June, in the year of our Lord, 1844.

EDWARD STALLARD.

[As the following account shows, he came to Havant by 1847 to take over operations of the Homewell yard, presumably as manager, which at that time was owned by Charles Fauntleroy.]

Havant

The Homewell Parchment Yard in Havant, on the southern fringe of the South Downs, overlooking Langston Harbour, was home of the famous Havant parchment. While other parchment tended to be yellow, Havant parchment was white, and this prized quality was due to the chalk-filtered water used in its manufacture.

Supplying the parchment factory was Homewell Spring, whose water had - it is said been used in parchment making for the last thousand years.

The Stallards lived on East Street. Edward Sr was a master fellmonger employing several men and boys, and many were family members: Uncle James and his son Albert; probably Alfred Stent, Mary Ann's son, and Edward Sr's own sons followed suit. Both George and Albert were journeymen in the trade, and in the decade that followed, they and their remaining sisters came of age in Havant.

Sister Ellen Stallard, like her eldest sister, married a clergyman. Brother George married Charlotte Ide from nearby Warblington. Brother Albert also married a woman from Warblington named Ellen. Clarissa married a gardener named Richard Softly, and sister Sarah Ann married a Ford.

And so, a month after his own son's death Edward found himself reading a letter telling him of his father's death. Enclosed was a transcribed copy of Edward Senior's will. In it he stated that he had previously given his parchment business to sons

George and Albert, and that he left all real estate to wife Charlotte, and the residue to be divided among his seven living children, excepting Edward. George and Albert continued to run the G & A Stallard Parchment Yard in Havant until their deaths in the early 1900s, passing the business on to George's son Thorburn.

Having produced the parchment both for the Magna Carta in 1215, and the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, the yard finally closed in 1936, marking the end of parchment production in Havant.

Friends of Havant Museum Local History Group. Oral history session
on Havant parchment by Alison Cummings, 1 December 2001

AC: Alison Cummings (student), BM: Betty Marshall, GK: Gillian Knight, AG: Ann Griffiths, IW: Ian Watson, JR: John Reger, BO: Barry O'Neill, PB: Peter Barge, RC: Ralph Cousins

AC: so to start us off, I thought we could talk about whether anyone has any family history with the site, for example has anyone got any family who used to work on the site?

RC: Grandad, great uncle and uncle.

AC: And they worked there when the site was a parchment factory?

RC: Yes. They came from a family of parchment makers. They seemed to move about, I don't know if that's typical parchment makers, but they started off in London then moved to Leicester where they worked at the Pavola works at Abingdon. In 1890 my great uncle, William Hambridge Cousins, came to Havant; his brother, Augustus Cousins, my grandfather, followed two or three years later. William worked there until about 1900 when they organised a petition for a rise in wages of a farthing (0.1p) an hour, and instead of having a round robin they had a list, and as William's name was at the top of the list, the boss assumed he was the ringleader so he was told 'you will have to go' and he got the sack. He moved back up the Midlands somewhere. Augustus worked there until about 1918 when grandmother got an eviction order against him and he was then thrown out of the house. He moved to Brentford and shortly after died in the Isleworth Infirmary. For the short time my uncle Hubert also worked there as a

boy. At 12/13 years old a friend of mine used to go in once a week to cut the skins of their frames for which they got about four pence a dozen. Betty probably remembers one or two old parchment-makers, the only one I knew was Bill Duffin who died a few years ago.

BM: I can't remember, I think there was somebody ... family that worked there. I'm probably the only person in the room who can actually remember the parchment works working, because they closed in 1936 and I've lived here all my life. I can't really remember very much about it because we lived in Denvilles and in those days Denvilles was quite separate from Havant. You came in here for shopping and things like that; we didn't really take any part in the Havant life. But, as I say, I can remember it still as a going concern. And I can remember the smell. It was a really smelly town, because so much of it was concerned with tanning, with fellmongering as they called it, which was, you know, all dealings in skins and the parchment works and various sorts of leather works and consequently it did smell.

AC: What did it smell like?

BM: Foul! If you can imagine dealing with the skins. The parchment works as you probably know from having examined what it did, the first thing they had to do was to get the flesh off the skins before doing anything else with them. So that obviously there was always a smell of rotting flesh. For the tanning, of course, they used dreadful mixtures of urine and all sorts of things like that and it was just a medley of really quite dreadful smells but certainly the smell of rotting flesh was one that stuck very strongly.

AC: Did you know at the time that it was a really important industry in Havant?

BM: No, we just accepted that it was what went on in Havant. Havant had always been an industrial town. And you didn't think of it, and certainly at the time I was talking about the parchment use was failing very much. They did other things, like making fine leathers for bookbinding and that sort of thing. But parchment of course was going out because of the improvement in papermaking. And I was interested in what Ralph said because my ancestors were all paper makers and they were making paper from rags and once again they did what Ralph's great-uncle and grandfather did, they moved to wherever there was a demand for their skill.

JR: I think it is essential to lay down what we mean by the Homewell parchment works and how long it has been in existence because it was probably not operational as a pure parchment works in Havant for less than a 100 years. A bit more than that; – 110 perhaps. It seems to have started in about 1827 as a

parchment works when it was set up in Homewell. We get a reference in 1792 for example of Messrs White and Gloyne. Gloyne was amongst other things a brewer, but they were fellmongers, parchment makers and glue makers so you've got to see that parchment is merely a part of a trade in skins. Now if you look at parchment as being part of a trade in skins, then the chances are that because Havant was so full of fellmongers and tanners going right back into the middle-ages and possibly as far back as Saxon times, parchment is just a section of the skin trade, and probably quite a small one. After about 1792 when you do get a reference to a parchment, I've had a look at the numbers of people who were engaged in the trade of parchment making pure and simple and they are very small, possibly no more than a dozen people in a parchment works. So, if you compare the parchment works with all the other tanning industries in Havant they may be making the odd bit of parchment on the side because if they're processing skins, there's always something they can do as a sort of by-product. But not until I think it was about 1847 when Stallard came down from Buriton and settled at the very small parchment works in Homewell and then proceeded to develop it could you talk about parchment being a separate and busy trade, a primary trade in Havant. At least that's what it looks to me like, other people may disagree, but I think that's how it is. And again how many people were employed in the parchment industry? The 1851 census, which records the trades of everyone, only nine men and four boys are parchment makers which is not a very large number out of a population of nearly 3,000, and a working population of probably 1,000. Even at the greatest extent which was from the time that we were talking about earlier when you've probably got all these people coming in and moving out and all the rest of it, the average number of people employed, men and boys was no more than 40 or 50. And again, if you go back beyond the end of the eighteenth century and you have a look at the Homewell site, that may well have been a tan yard. It's got all the things there. It may even have been the site of what was called the dye house, because in the seventeenth century up to the middle of the eighteenth century Havant workers were cloth workers as well. And there's a chap who was called the dyer who had a dye house in Homewell. Somewhere in that area there was the dye-house where you get the water from the Homewell spring, which he could mix with his dye stuff and dye cloth. And right at the end of the seventeenth century the early eighteenth century, the man who owned the dye house, a man called (?), his daughter left his dye-house or his house in Homewell which is called the Dye House, or now the Glove House, to her son and that's about 1710. So in other

words whilst you've got a parchment works which grows up in Havant of considerable, almost national importance, even though its small, its probably not as important as people in Havant like to think it was. The site at Homewell was probably a mini industrial complex going way back.

PB: With the parchment works was Homewell the only parchment site or were there others?

JR: Well, again you see there were throughout the whole Havant area. Tanneries in Havant town, down along Homewell, more in Brockhampton. The only evidence I've ever had that parchment was made elsewhere is probably the case of John Penfold who was a tanner lived in Brockhampton right at the end of the seventeenth century, whose will, which he wrote himself, is written on a piece of parchment, whereas all the other seventeenth century and eighteenth century wills and inventories and all the rest of it and going right back are written on paper. So, John Penfold, presumably in his Brockhampton tannery produced the odd bit of parchment. And I think you will probably find that they didn't produce parchment as a material to be sold, so much as somebody came up to him and said, I'd like a bit of parchment, can you knock me up one the next time you get a skin on the side you can turn into a bit of parchment. And I would have thought that was the way things went, but again I have no evidence or authority apart from that scrap of parchment of John Penfold.

AC: Thinking about Homewell itself, can you remember when it closed?

JR: 1936

AC: Do you remember the event of it closing or did it just happen?

BM: Yes, it didn't make a major impact because by then things were changing industrially and also as John said there were so few people actually employed there, they all had skills which could be used elsewhere that it wasn't a major disaster in that sense. It was a disaster in the sense that there were buildings there that, so to speak lost their use. But it didn't have a major impact on the industrial life of the town because there were so much else going on, and of course it must also be remembered that at that time Havant was a separate identity. I mean, now we've got the borough and everything is melded together but at that time in 1936 Havant was a little town by itself with a population of some 3,000 people. And consequently it wasn't the major impact because there were all sorts of alternative things to do and there was also the growth of work in Portsmouth which was easy enough to get to because of the railway communication. I was thinking about this this morning in another connection, but I imagine that from the time the railway service started between Havant and

Portsmouth there was a lot of people travelled to work in the dockyard from the Portsmouth area, and consequently the loss of employment in Havant from the parchment factories which by then was minimal made no, what you might say from an economical aspect, impact at all because there was always work to be got elsewhere.

JR: And of course there was the glove works wasn't there?

BM: Yes. It was still tanning and the glove factories and all this sort of thing.

JR: Anyone engaged in parchment making could get any other job in the leather industry. They were all doing much the same thing.

BM: Yes, the process was all the same basically, except for the final finish.

AC: tell me what happened to the site afterwards, I understand the army..?

BM: No, I don't believe the army were ever there, were they Ralph do you remember?

RC: I can't remember as far back but I have been told the army were there for a time and it was also used for ARP and Fire Service practises. In my memory the builders Carrells has always been there.

BM: I should think that Carrells took it over almost immediately as a builder's yard. Because in 1936/1937 they owned that area and also the land on the west corner of Park Road South and West Street, so they probably bought up a whole lot of land there which comprised the parchment works and all through, it must have gone right through because that was completely undeveloped. If you think at that time there was no Dolphin pub, there was no Park Road South. Park Road South wasn't built until 1937/38. By that time Carrells owned all that land right through there. So that yes, I would imagine piecing one thing to another, that probably one of the reasons the parchment closed was because Carrells, who were by then established builders in the town and they had been for a couple of generations, they wanted to take it over as a builders yard and I think that may be, I've only just thought of that, the connections only just come to me, but that may have been one of the reasons, I'm sure because of various things that I know about renting and buying property from Carrells that they certainly owned all that land from before 1939.

AG: If you want to get in touch with Robert Carrell he lives in Harbourside, Langstone.

BM: He would be the grandson; it would have been his grandfather and his great uncle who would have bought that area. It is two generations back, that's right his grandfather and his great uncle, then his father and his uncle carried it on and it was him, the remaining Carrell, who sold it to McCarthy & Stone.

JR: We're talking about Carrells being established, they built the church school in 1871.

BM: Yes, they have been builders since around ...

GK: Where were their premises before they took over the parchment?

RC: Their yard was where Halfords [now HSBC bank] is now.

JR: If you're quite sure it was where Halfords was, whether it was not where Park Road South is, in other words Park Road South ran through the site?

RC: The yard was still there after Park Road South was built. There was the long building which you thought was the malthouse, was it?

BM: Yes, it was a malthouse.

RC: Industrial uses right up until the time Halfords was built in the 1960s?

JR: Malting was another great trade in Havant.

BM: There's no doubt that Carrells were expanding as Havant was expanding, there was a lot of building going on and Carrells business expanded as Havant expanded which is probably why they needed larger premises.

GK: So they just went next door?

BM: Yes, virtually. It came on the market.

GK: It doesn't look as though it's next door now.

BM: It would've been. If you obliterate Park Road South, the whole stretch ran right through behind the gardens in West Street.

AC: Has anyone else got any childhood memories about the site or is everyone else fairly new to the area?

IW: Not a childhood memory but I was told coffins were made, presumably by Carrells.

BM: They were funeral directors as well.

RC: They had Rolls Royce hearses. Locally we said we'd all get a ride in a Rolls Royce one day!

GK: Many builders were because they had the skills for carpentry and they had the manpower to take time off work for burials. It went together.

BM: It was established.

RC: I think it still does. (Unheard speaking) Part of the building was a chapel of rest.

AC: So did anyone enter the site when it was working as a builder's yard?

JR: A very useful builders yard, because they never threw anything away. And when they pulled down a house and rebuilt it which they did quite often all the bricks, slate tiles, slates etc., presumably pots, anything which could be reused was stacked in the yard and when I wanted a whole lot of bricks to rebuild my

garden wall I went along to Carrells and picked out the ones I wanted. And I'd lost a lot of tiles off the roof and I picked up 20 or 30 tiles which fitted the place exactly, so that was Carrells yard. Most useful.

RC: The milestone at Milestone Point was cut from an old tombstone from Carrells yard.

AC: When you went on site did you notice the buildings that surrounded you?

JR: The ones on the left as you go through I think were the parchment buildings. They've got lime pits under the floor.

IW: And they are adjacent to the line of the stream aren't they?

JR: They are, yes.

BM: You could say there weren't any other new buildings on the site when it was a builder's yard, they used all the buildings that were already there.

BO: Sorry, I don't know the site but are the buildings brick?

AC: Yes. Timber and brick.

BO: Do we know what the developer is going to do on the site?

RC: This is the big argument, they put a planning application in originally which involved quite a bit of demolition, that got rejected. In the meantime English Heritage came in and listed it and virtually put a block on any demolition at all.

GK: Havant library's got a full set, which you can look at.

BM: I can tell you what the latest one contains if you like. I mean, since you wrote, within the last 3/4/5 weeks another application has been put in. If you want to know what they propose to do in detail I can tell you: Building 1 which is the first one on the left the tall one; 'the 2 lower floors will be converted to residential use and the second floor left unoccupied to retain the slatted floor and the louvered windows'.

Building 2, which is the one which lies farther back. As you go in the spring is there and there's a building lying farther back to the east. Building 2; 'the ground floor will remain unaltered to retain evidence of pokes', that is the lime pits isn't it? The first floor will be converted to residential use. Buildings 4 and 5, which are the tall one there and the one that lies right against the stream, do you know what I mean? Buildings 4 and 5 will be converted to residential use with missing floors reinstated.

Building 6, which is going on down that run of buildings further down, will be used as storage with no alterations'. Building 7, which is the one which there has been a lot of argument because it's the long one which was the drying shed, building 7 to be retained and re-roofed in slate following the removal of the corrugated iron sheeting. Northern bays to be restored to the condition at the

association of parchment making use and the remainder of the building will be used in association with the new buildings'. What they're planning to do is the southern end of that, which will come close up to where they're planning to put the new blocks up, that will be used as a lobby and entrance but also for no 7, this goes on and I'm dodging a bit now, but it says that 'the principle elements now submitted are the residential conversion of building no 2 which was previously proposed for museum use, and the retention inside of building no 7 with its refurbishment and conversion partly into a covered interpretative facility referring to the industrial past of the site and partly to an entrance and lobby to the new sheltered housing development'. In other words most of that will be retained as it was but just where it joins onto the new building they are obviously going to have something which will interpret the parchment use of the site. Which I think is quite a good idea because I think to have had a complete museum would have turned into rather a white elephant because how could it be opened? I mean the suggestion was the museum here would hold the key and people would come and get the key, well that to me is useless. Well I'm sorry but to me it wouldn't work and I think this idea is infinitely better because it will be so to speak available to the public and it will be sufficient with the buildings that are retained to make it plain how all the buildings were used when it was a parchment works. That's number 7 which is one of the important ones. Number 8 which is sort of sitting in the middle is being retained as storage and number 9 which is the one on the west side of the entrance where you go into the site..

JR: Which is where the offices were.

BM: Where the offices were, ground and first floor to be converted to residential use, there will be 39 sheltered apartments in the new building and 13 apartments will be constructed in the old buildings for residential use. One of the things that brought this on, they were talking weren't they in the application you've seen about office use for the parchment work buildings well unfortunately as so often happens English Heritage refused financial support and the Parchment Housing Association which were going to use those offices decided they couldn't proceed without financial support from English Heritage. So as a result of that this latest plan has been submitted by McCarthy and Stone. And another association I represent has already written supporting it because I think everybody in Havant, or everybody who takes interest in the site are now getting more and more desperate about the deterioration that's taking place and unless something is done very, very quickly some of it will have gone beyond repair. And I think unless action is taken very soon I wouldn't blame McCarthy

and Stone for saying its all got too expensive and we're not interested anymore because of the delays and the arguments and as I say finally after all this English Heritage, who have really been rather obstructive, have now said that they won't give financial support, and everything has fallen down. I would also add that my Bosmere Hundred Association and the Havant Residents Association were already working on a plan for the improvement of the area outside the McCarthy and Stone site, around the spring and the rest of the area which approaches there which we had to put into abeyance because until the decision was made on the planning application obviously you couldn't do anything else and McCarthy and Stone have included in their planning application that they will give a generous contribution to work to be done outside and around the stream and so on. So that to me that is also a very important factor because once the parchment works side is done then we hope to work on the area outside and get that all up together as a very important, it is the most important site in the heart of Havant with the combination of St Faiths church and the churchyard and Homewell House and the old house in South Street, the whole of that area is the historic heart of Havant and we just hope that something will be done and it will be brought back up together and people will begin to enjoy it again instead of avoiding it because it is in such a mess.

JR: Homewell Spring is the reason why Havant is here.

BM: Yes it is, if you go right back Homewell Spring is extremely important.

AC: You mentioned a few other historic sites of Havant there, what other sites are there in Havant which are historically important?

IW: My interest is, believe it or, industrial buildings of which there are plenty in Havant. I do walks around Havant. Three weeks ago I took a set of ten year olds from Bosmere School which is what 3 or 400 yards, at the bottom of South Street. And they were fascinated, absolutely fascinated. I stopped at six different places in Havant where there was a building which was the basis of what I was going to talk about and they took it in. May I say they were beautifully behaved, they were really responsive. I had a letter from every one of them within a few days and they had gone home to talk to their parents; 'when I told mum about all the water she was fascinated' sort of thing, and they were first class listeners and yesterday I went to assembly down there where this class had produced a little play called 'Walking Around Havant with Mr Watson'! The gym was decorated, there was the mill wheel and there was the washing factory. At one time from the navy and the army was sent up to clean. And they came on and for each station, that is where I had stopped to talk, they had produced a little charade,

and there were these girls busy washing saying 'isn't it stinking here?' and I have a lovely recollection of a chap yesterday saying 'Mr Clark, the smell around here must've been awful!'. So they're getting an impression of the town. Their parents are interested and I think it's nice that this should happen. And this is where your customers to look at your building will come from, won't they? I think any Victorian building which has got character should go on. I think it's dreadful if they're just knocked flat, and alter them and make use of them. The Victorian pattern has always been if you've got a brick there you use it in whatever. Very close to the Homewell is a beautiful malthouse in South Street, on the right of South Street, which has been, I don't know who did it, altered. It is now a lovely little flat at one end and offices at the other. It is a perfect example of a malthouse, it has got bricks there that going back to 1750ish, you've got filled in windows which tell the story of the place and it fascinated these kids. And I think it is absolutely essential that some old buildings should be preserved because towns in the past were not so hideous and dreary as they are now where you have universal shops, universal everything. Kids like to grow up in a place, and I think it's necessary for the development of their character, that they should belong to a place, that they should grow up in a place that's got character that is different from anywhere else and these kids have got it and I think, when I took them to see Homewell, now as I say 300/400 yards away a third of them had never been there which is absolutely disgraceful, but then they all go by car you see. Mum drops them down and there you are.

GK: It's a backwater isn't it?

IW: It is a backwater.

GK: It's off the beaten track.

IW: If you go into the parchment development around the back, you see that superb industrial building and if it can be preserved to be seen to remind people it's a part of history.

BM: What you have to remember is the one thing that Havant has always had is an absolutely inexhaustible supply of water. With the springs that are all along here, and a lot of them are now covered because they used to supply all of us with our drinking water. But there was an endless supply of fresh pure water bubbling up out of the ground and consequently all through the centuries Havant has been able to use that for all sorts of things, for mills, for all this leatherwork industry which uses endless supplies of water. Anything that needed water Havant had it and not only that, that it was pure spring water bubbling up out of the ground, no contamination. And as John said, Homewell Spring is the reason

why Havant started where it was, because of the crossing of two at least Roman ways if not pre-Roman.

JR: Almost certainly pre-Roman.

BM: Almost certainly pre-roman tracks that crossed in the centre of Havant and this is what it has grown on. Until the rise of the dockyard in Portsmouth, Havant was much more important industrially than Portsmouth was. And this is where the basis was, it was this endless supply of water. And Homewell spring is I think the only spring in Havant now that remains uncovered and consequently that is why Homewell Spring as well as the buildings is important. Because you can stand there and see the water bubbling up out of the ground and one of my happiest memories at some stage was workmen sent from the council to pump it dry so that they could do something, I think they were repairing the edge of the spring, and causing great amusement to the residents of Homewell because they said you're not going to do it'. It did dry up in 1976 but that is the only time I can remember it not bubbling up as it always did. And this is the guiding thing in the history of Havant that always there was this plentiful supply of water that was used. And they used it industrially for so many things.

AC: To go back to something Ian said, this idea about belonging to a place and how you were introducing the children, getting them to know their town so they felt that they belonged, does everyone here feel as though they belong to the town?

PB: Not necessarily, because I don't live here!

JR: It comes... doesn't it really, because whether or not you work in it and got used to the pattern of the town. I live in Emsworth and I only came here in 1955 but you really need to get people who live here now. We're a very mobile society, if you take a class of school children and say where did your parents come from? You get no two people saying that they came from Havant.

BO: But having said that I think Havant belongs to all of us.

JR: Yes, but you see until you get the existing generation and impress upon them, this is your town, look after it you will get vandalism and that is one of the problems.

BM: Well I suppose I'm the only one here who was born in Havant.

RC: I was!

BM: Sorry Ralph! But I'm one of a family of seven and I'm the only one of that family who is still living in Havant. But I find it enormously comfortable because there are people, well not many now, but there are a few people in Havant who knew me when I was a child who I've known all my life and what I like about it is

it is no good my pretending to be something I'm not because there are too many people around who know my background who know what I am. And I find this very reassuring and very comfortable. And of course I am extremely interested in the history of the town because I think it is a particularly interesting town in all sorts of ways with a long, long history. I think probably the longest history of any place around here because it can be traced back so firmly to Roman times and also as John said probably pre-Roman times and the centre of Havant is fixed. The crossroads and the church is where it all began. I like the feeling that I am living where people have lived for two thousand years. As I say I'm probably unique in this in that my association with the town goes back so far. I went to Little Dame school, my first education was the Little Dame school in the town which is now a funeral directors in Hall Road. So that I feel I am part of Havant and Havant is part of me.

AC: what about the newcomers?

BO: Someone once quoted that those crossroads originally perhaps may go back as far as four thousand years.

JR: I would have thought so. Because you see they are in line with the Portsdown ridgeway. You go along the south coast, you cannot get along the shore between Portsmouth and Portsdown because in pre-historic times it was marshy. So you went down over the Portsdown ridgeway and then you came along a footpath or trackway which skirted the creeks all the way to Chichester, the Trundle and various places that way. Certainly by the time of the Romans the Roman road ran straight, more or less, from Chichester to Havant. It was a bit sideways coming straight out of the Chichester west gate, probably a mile or so to the north of the present A259. By the time you got to Cartmill you see there is a very straight line that goes straight down on the farm, the other side of the railway, down to Cartmill and then from there, from Cartmill to the Hermitage it is straighter. And then from Emsworth there's a bit of a detour probably because of a ford there and then the Roman road goes straight again all the way to Havant, slightly to the north of Portsdown to Wickham. It's quite clear. And there's a road through Havant up to Rowlands Castle and beyond.

BM: And of course there's what is known to be a Roman temple on a pre-Roman base in Northney and that north/south track would have continued across the Wadeway to this important temple at Northney. The history of those two tracks crossroads in Havant, as you say could well have gone back 4,000 years that those tracks were being used if not before.

GK: We hosted an American teacher three or four years ago and she was absolutely overwhelmed by the fact that she was walking along a track on which people had walked so long, continuously. It sometimes takes an outsider to focus what we take for granted.

AC: thinking about the parchment works then if you had a visitor who'd never been to Havant before would you take them to see the parchment works?

JR: Taking them to look at Homewell, if there was a place to look at the parchment works. From there it's only a step. You'd take them to the church, Homewell and to the old yard, Carrell's yard, certainly.

BM: I think this is what may well happen if its opened up by the McCarthy and Stone development and if there is in there this interpretative centre that they're talking about which will, I imagine, be reasonably accessible to the public because it is going to form the entrance of the new buildings, obviously there will have to be some sort of security but with any luck that may be open and accessible to the public. And I think then there will be some point in taking them in and saying: "Look these are the buildings which were the parchment works". As you say Homewell, the whole of Homewell is interesting. The Homewell Street is good, Homewell House is such a wonderful Georgian domestic building and now there's somebody who owns it fortunately who's going to look after it. And then St Faith's church and the church yard, and then to go through to South Street to the Old House At Home which is the oldest remaining, it's the last timber-framed building in Havant. The whole of that area, and as Ian said the little building which is now converted which was a malthouse, which is a fascinating little building, and of course you can also come this way as well because there are the cottages and houses like Magnolia House and number 40 East Street in Havant, parts of it are much older than the street frontage would indicate which is of course what happens in a lot of Havant buildings. The street frontage is a disguise for what lies behind. Like you were saying about Bentleys, it has got a frontage put on which is 1908 but behind that there are things which are older and this applies to an awful lot of buildings in Havant. Havant people were very economical, they ever didn't pull anything down. If they had a bit of wall left they would build on top of it and that is why on streets if you find the right place to look at it part of the west wall of Streets is actually a flint wall. And wherever you go in Havant if you look you can find remnants of all sorts of things which indicate its continuous occupation. It is all built up, the history of Havant is right down there under our feet because you never get a chance to look at it properly because they always built on top of what was left.

AC: What about the site as it stands at the moment, would you include the site in your tour?

BM: Yes.

AC: As it is now?

BM: No, because you can't get at it. You can go and see the outside of it.

GK: You can't appreciate it.

AG: I think most people now wouldn't even know it was there.

BM: If somebody asked me that question about how many people do you think are interested in it and I think if you talk about the Havant borough, that is the whole of the district, I should think you could say that 98% of the people don't even know it exists. If you come to Havant town centre probably I would say about 90% of the people don't know about and don't care about it.

AC: why do people think that is?

JR: Because they've not thought about it.

PB:... outside of Havant, if you're living outside of any conurbation such as this you look at it from the purpose you want to use it. If you're a commuter to London if it's got easy access, good car parking so you can get the train that's your view of Havant nothing else. If you want particular shops and they're there then you use it for that. Very few people, I think, look at it historically. And the number of people who come in here that have lived in Havant or close by for 20/30 years and their opening words are I never knew we had a museum. You know full well that the message is not getting out there. But if this is developed in the centre and becomes an attraction and people don't have to walk more than ten yards from their car you could well generate a lot more interest.

AG: It could become a focal point really.

GK: It's almost beside the information centre where tourists frequent. At the multi-storey to say what there is in the area it would be very easily accessible three minutes from there.

RC: You can see where the gates are because I've got to mention the residents, the new residents who wouldn't welcome loads of people coming down to look at whatever we put down there. I don't know what the treatment's going to be, is the gateway still going to remain there?

BM: I don't think so, you mean the gates that close the builders yard?

GK: Are the pillars shown on the picture?

BM: They're going to keep the width of the entrance you might say.

RC: I don't think they're going to welcome any great encouragement to people to go down there.

BM: I don't think they are but at the same time, you can walk down there and over a footbridge over a stream at the bottom to join up with the path which goes through. It would be an interesting exercise to see. Well to start with you're going to have quite a lot of footfall from the people living there. If you've got a total of 52 apartments you're going to have a lot of people coming and going and there will be a certain amount of car parking although obviously they'll have to come in the other way from Park Road South. Immediately you get an awful lot more people going into and out of Homewell and they will have visitors.

GK: And there's a footpath going through to the parchments. It's not going to be a dead-end cul-de-sac.

BM: No.

GK: It's going to be a thoroughfare.

BM: here's going to be a footbridge here so you can come down through here out onto the existing footpath that goes through from the parchment to Park Road South. When they developed The Parchment housing a space was reserved by the stream to have a footpath which comes right down the stream and out here. So with the footbridge put across there you will be able to come through here and walk right beside the stream and right down. And as I say there is already an existing footpath that comes through from South Street through The Parchment and cuts through along beside the stream here out into Park Road South. So that you will have two footpaths and actually this one, because I live over here this one which goes through The Parchment and out onto Park Road South is in point of fact extremely well used. There's a lot of people going through there already, I think its going to be an interesting observation to find out just how much it does open up the whole of that area to people. It will be mostly pedestrian traffic because the car access will come from Park Road South so there won't be any through car traffic, they will not be able to come down Homewell to drive in there. So it will be pedestrian traffic, but I think there will be a lot more pedestrian traffic and a lot more people will become aware of it. Which I think it is going to be an interesting exercise to see just what does happen.

GK: Its one aspect of Havant that I really enjoyed when I first came here 34 years ago was the network of footpaths, the Twittens. I have never come across such a reticulation anywhere else. And especially as a young mother it was nice to be able to walk different ways to get from a to b and you didn't have to go the same way every day. It's very special to Havant isn't it?

BM: It is very special. And they are used. As I say this footpath which I'm talking about through here actually you could almost say a continuation of the network of town footpaths that there is all around in Havant. They are, they're extremely well used. As I look out on the one which comes through you see the same people every day. Dog walkers, shoppers all sorts of people, children going to school, which I delight in seeing. It's in constant use. .

AG: Is Twitten a local word?

BM: It's a Sussex word which has sort of spilt over the border. There are Twittens in Seaford, Brighton and in Worthy, those are the ones I definitely know about. I don't know of any west of Havant.

AG: Where does it come from, for between?

BM: Betwixt and between I should think. I've no grounds for saying this except for the fact that I know that there are these in Sussex and I don't know of anymore going that way. It stops here in Havant, so I think it is probably because we are so close it just spread over the county border.

GK: To come back to something, do we have any reassurance that the developer will actually make the interpretative centre accurate? Who is going to provide the information? Is it something they will cobble together?

BM: If you like it's a thing I will take up, I've got to acknowledge the receipt of this, tell them what we hope...

GK: It is so aggravating if it's not done.

IW: Could I say, I've taken two groups of industrial archaeologists around the Havant walk as it were and each group separately seeing the left hand building from the back, the main building, have been absolutely fascinated, so if that were in good repair it would always be an attraction to anyone interested in buildings which is quite a small percentage of people isn't it? So I don't think there'll be any trouble with great crowds. So that would be one very good reason for having it there. Also there is another tannery which is on the Portsmouth water company site which is complete and you could start tanning tomorrow if you wished. It's used as a store. There were six windmills. There are three streams which go down to Langstone, each had a couple of watermills on it, one or two even more. And there's very little left of those so as a historical town it would be well worth having that building we've been talking about reused in some way.

AC: do you think through the reuse and the fact that the buildings will hopefully be a bit more accessible to the public, that will change the whole meaning of the site. The fact that it was a parchment works?

AG: Because they'll wonder what it was, won't they?

IW: You have to put up with it haven't you? You can't preserve for the sake of preservation especially if there's a developer interested. I've got some shares in a developer and they pay me 35 per cent a year! The developers are... interested in money and building, building places for old people to live. So let us make use of them, let us get that building.

BM: In any case that is what has happened all through the centuries. You cannot set a place in aspic and say that's how it is and that's how it's going to stay. It develops and develops and that is the interest of it. That by picking up the signs you can follow how a town has developed and what its history is what remains of what there was, where are we going next? Which has got to happen, it endlessly happens.

AC: so there's a benefit for people interested in history, a benefit for people interested in buildings, a benefit for the developer, what sort of benefits do you think the community will gain from this development?

JW: Could I ask what you mean by community first?

AC: Homewell. Neighbours with the site.

GK: Or the broader community?

AC: the micro community outside the parchment works.

BM: I think the people who already live in Homewell will be absolutely furious having their peace disturbed.

AG: Make it noisy.

BM: Yes, by the people coming and going. As against that in a sense they will be relieved because they are bothered by the amount of vandalism, by the groups that get down there for no particular good purpose. And I think they will be relieved to have that danger removed. I think most of them will say because its been talked about for so long, I can't remember when McCarthy and Stone bought the site, how long ago that is, do you remember Ralph?

RC: Five years I think.

BM: In that time they have been bothered so much by what is going to happen to it, by what goes on down there, they get down there lighting fires and that sort of thing so far it hasn't done much damage, but I know they are endlessly disturbed and I think they will have a balance between what it will do to what is now a very peaceful little back water, I'm talking about Homewell street now the people who live in the little cottages, and the fact that this constant worry will be removed. And it's not as though its going to introduce, well it is not going to introduce any motor traffic that will disturb them. I think probably on balance they will be pleased to see it.

GK: It's not a student hall of residence!

BM: No!

BO: I think what has been achieved by this method is a way of preserving rather than having it pulled down. I think that is what has been achieved.

BM: Yes, that's the achievement, the fact that so many of the buildings are going to be renovated, converted and done very sensitively so that the original buildings remain. There is a picture here which shows, that is the long converted building down by the stream. Well that remains sufficiently as it is now for it to be recognised as a parchment building, and this is what they're doing very, very sensitively to all the listed buildings. They are being very good about it. And I think in a sense Havant ought to congratulate McCarthy and Stone. I know arms have been twisted to a large extent to get something which has turned out as good as this and of course the fact that the new development will be over here and leave a vista through so that the two blocks, the old and the new will stand separately. The new won't impinge on the old. The whole run of those old parchment buildings will be visible and understandable without being obscured in any way by the new. This is what has happened in Havant all the way along.

GK: It's a lot more interesting with the roof line than what they did with the multi-storey carpark which was so repetitive and angular, it looked like child's building blocks.

BM: I'm looking forward to it.

IW: We actually need to have a description there to explain what has been going on. I think the one essential is a model of an old man with a skin stretched upon a frame. The thing is he has a knife and when he has to split the skin from the front skin to the back of the skin, which is an enormously skilled job isn't it, it's the only thing which is different from the rest of the tannery world that is one of the few very highly skilled jobs, and that is something that people don't know about and they want to see.

RC: A slightly contrary view which I've had on this. I understand that what English Heritage are really excited about is this whole corrugated drying shed and I think we've talked about exposure to a maximum number of people, parchment making, and I've the sort of view that I would take it away, re-erect it at the Weald and Downland museum and to fit it out properly as a parchment interpretation centre. You would expose Havant and parchment making to thousands of people far more than we would ever expose it to by keeping the shed down there and trying to do something useful with it. I know that they say it's the most complete parchment works left but overriding that, it is an

extremely important site in the town. On balance, personally I would let some of it go. But I really don't think at the end of the day we're going to get the interpretation and the exposure of parchment making in Havant that really what we would like to see. I mean there's St Fagins down in Wales and things that go on there and the Weald and Downland, its only just up the road, I've got a gut feeling that that would be a far more satisfactory arrangement. Okay they've been able to make some useful conversions in the old buildings. I'm not sure what the wooden slatted drying shed, what were they going to do with those Betty?

BM: I have reservation about the one they say they were going to convert the two lower floors but keep the slatted roof and the louvred windows. I rather wonder how it will feel if you're living under the first floor with the second floor with the slatted roof and the louvered windows. It might be a bit draughty.

RC: That is what worries me about it ... to my mind that bit was all left exactly the same.

BM: Some of them, I can see that its going to be successful.

RC: The brick buildings, I can see that.

GK: Although we've got the sop at the moment of an interpretative area do we have any guarantee that that will continue to be used as that or will we find its not going to be viable and convert it into something more?

BM: I don't think they will because if its part of the entrance and the lobby unless they decide to do something different about that, which I don't think they will do, I think that would remain what I think it is necessary to see is more detail, which they will have to produce of exactly what they're going to do. This lot only came to me this morning and I haven't had time to sit and study it but I think its going to contain more detail, I hope it is.

GK: What I looked at was to the left of the entrance lobby they're talking about what appears to be two garage areas for parking buggies and I presume they mean electric buggies. Well, for the number of retirement places they're envisaging, 50 something you said, I can see that they might find that they're needing more than they're allowing and the interpretative area is just the other side of the lobby would be the area I would have thought they'd look at to say well we need those buggies stored.

PB: What they do is include a recognition of something, such as electric buggies, to say they've considered it but really all they've done was to put a token number in there.

GK: Exactly, and it may not be sufficient.

PB: Where I live, of ninety houses, it was objected to that the school couldn't handle the children and the answer was the ninety houses would produce no more than one child!

BM: You really need a lot more detail yet as to what this is going to do. Certainly the outline that's come through so far I think it's the best they've produced.

GK: There's one thing you asked a minute ago, what use is it to the community and I said the broader community, well we were talking earlier. There's quite a large catchment area, people who live on the outer fringes of Havant who've enjoyed living here for many years but as they get older they can't cope, they can't cope with the garden, they can't cope with driving. I would've thought this provided an opportunity for those people to come and live within the centre of Havant, right in the centre in a stone's throw of everything they need including the transport. And so that's the big use for the community that I can see for the future.

The Parchment Yard after Stallard

It is possible that Carrell's the builders purchased the Parchment Works in 1937. They were certainly there by 1949 but it seems as though it was requisitioned by the War Office during the Second World War.

There has been mention of troops being stationed there at some time and it was used by the Air Raid Precautions (ARP) staff and the National Fire Service for training and practise. The fire service had an office in Homewell House.

A Council minute of 12 August 1941 records: *In a recent fire service exercise the Homewell Spring had been emptied very quickly.*



The ARP or fire service practising in Homewell for a gas attack, 1940.

When Carrells closed the yard was purchased by McCarthy & Stone who made a planning application to demolish all of the buildings and develop the site for sheltered housing. However a campaign was launched to have the buildings listed and this was successful, the main reason being it was a remarkable example of a nearly complete parchment making yard still surviving in the country. The yard, now called Springwell, has been developed with the old buildings converted into 10 houses and a block of 40 retirement/sheltered housing flats built and named Watermill Court.

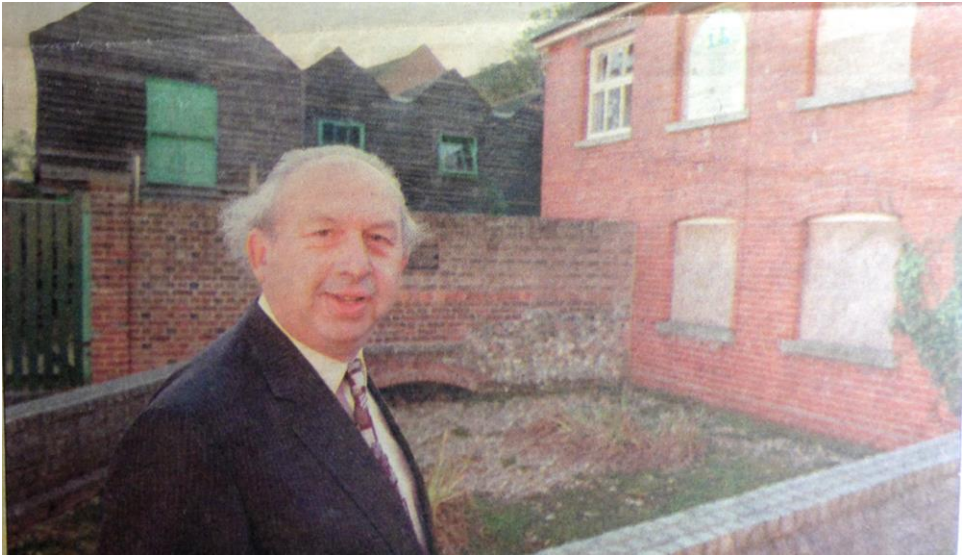


A Carrell's work's outing to Windsor in the 1930s. *Jane Duffin*

Developers held at bay by listed status for important builder's yard

PROTECTION FOR TOWN'S HISTORY

Emma Cordery



Historian Ralph Cousins wants the site to be turned into a museum. Note another occasion when the spring had dried up.

An old builder's yard in the centre of Havant has been named as a site of special architectural or historic interest by the government.

Geo. Carrell and Son's yard in Homewell was designated a listed site by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Developer McCarthy and Stone wanted to build 56 sheltered flats on the site but was refused planning permission by Havant Borough Council last month on the grounds of over-intensive development.

The listed status now gives added protection from demolition to the site, the historical centre of Havant's parchment-making works.

A detailed description of each of the buildings on the site and the functions they performed in the 18th and 19th and early 20th centuries is attached to the formal listing document sent to the council by the government.

It states: 'Homewell Parchment Works was owned by the Stallard family until its closure in 1936. It was the last parchment works to close in Havant.'

'The parchment works remain remarkably complete with most of the component buildings of the parchment-making process surviving intact'

But planners have not ruled out granting permission for some development on the site in the future.

The council's head of planning and development, Derek Kingaby, said: 'The listing is formal recognition of the importance of the history of the site. The buildings are evidence of that history and any revised scheme for Homewell will need to take proper account of the buildings.

'Nevertheless it is recognised that some development will occur since it is unrealistic to expect the site to be left frozen in its history.'

'Local historian Ralph Cousins called for the site to be turned into a museum.

The prime use would be a museum using models to show how parchment was made. But we would be talking about a considerable cost and there is the question of whether there is enough interest to draw people.'

McCarthy and Stone's proposals included the renovation and re-use of some of the more substantial buildings on the site. Agent Gary Day said the company was now re-considering its decision to appeal against the refusal of planning permission.

He said: It may be that we don't feel it is necessary to amend our proposals in the light of the buildings becoming listed. Or it may be that we decide to amend the scheme.'

Havant's chairman of planning Councillor Hugh Benzie (Lib Dem) said: 'McCarthy and Stone have been fairly considerate in being prepared to keep some of the buildings but we were hoping to retain more.

'If another developer were to come along with a different plan and it went to appeal this listing does secure a better position for us.'

Evening News, 29 October 1997

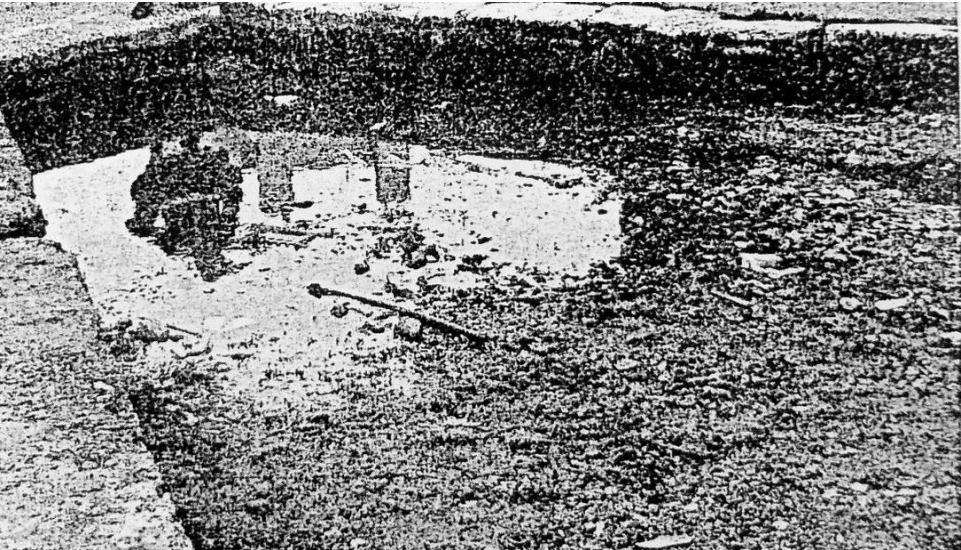
The Homewell Spring

Lawlessness

Examination of the records of the Court Leet, the manorial court that dealt with criminal offences, gives some idea of lawlessness in the 17th and 18th centuries. In one case Joseph Barkett was prosecuted for allowing his wife to wash children's clothes in the Homewell spring. He was let off but would be fined 40 shillings (two pounds) if she did it again.



Because the footings for the new wall kept flooding, council workmen put this pump in the spring hoping to pump it dry. Some hopes!



The Homewell Spring is one of over 30 major springs in the area and is estimated to produce an average of one million gallons of water per day at a constant temperature of approximately 10 degrees celsius. Only in exceptionally dry conditions, such as in 1983, has it ceased to flow.

A plaque on the wall reads:

Homewell Spring

The settlement here, almost certainly Roman and possibly pre-Roman, depended on this spring. Havant was named after the name appearing on documents before the Norman Conquest and stemming from 'Funta' spring. The unusual qualities of the water fostered the growth of the Havant parchment industry that operated here until 1936.

As previously mentioned the so called 'unusual qualities' of the water probably do not exist and, if any do, had no influence on the quality of parchment produced. The critical factors being that it was clean and almost infinite. However I have seen it recorded elsewhere that sometimes chalk was rubbed into the surface to make it white so perhaps the chalky water did have some effect on the finished product.

Origin of the name of 'Havant'

Over the years there has been much speculation of how 'Havant' came to be named. There is little doubt part of the name derives from the presence of the Homewell spring. As to the reference to 'Hama' no evidence can be found of who or what he/she was or if they existed at all or had any connection with this area.

However the theories put forward in the following letters between Betty Marshall and Philip Adams and the contribution by John Pile may bring us some way towards knowing how the name of Havant evolved. Any other opinions would be most welcome.

Dear Mrs. Marshall,

13 March 1987

Homewell Enhancement Proposals

On the 10th March the Director of Planning Administration passed to me a copy of your letter to him which is headed as above as to which I am unable to give you a date although I presume it was recent. Your letter followed what I understand was your questioning of the wording which, after some discussion, I had proposed for the Homewell plaque and that was:

THE HOMEWELL

The Settlement here, probably Roman, and possibly pre-Roman, depended on this spring and Havant was named after it. The unusual properties of the spring fostered the growth of Havant's parchment industry.

That at least was the first formulation. I gathered subsequently that the Director's officers did not think the wording was long enough so, with some reluctance, I suggested that in that case they could lengthen the first sentence by adding "the name appearing on documents before the Norman Conquest and stemming from "Funta – a spring".

I do not know which version of that wording the Director's officers mentioned to yourself.

If there is still an enthusiasm for lengthening the wording, I would certainly have no objection to adding the second paragraphs of your own suggestion about the high lime content and the production until 1936 after the second sentence there; I know nothing of the chemistry of the tanning process and I am sure you do and are right about that. As to the first sentence what I had put forward may help you to have the following explanation of the approach. We are agreed that the first documentary reference to Havant is what Ekwall indicates is one of the *Gartularium Saxonicum* of 935. So any prior evidence about Havant as a settlement would have to be archaeological. I thought about this and had a word with Nicholas Hall on the 14th October 1986 and he was able to confirm my own thinking and put my thoughts into a better articulated order as follows:-

(a) there is no pre-Roman evidence of settlement in central Havant (i.e. close to the spring).

(b) the evidence of Roman settlement there is at best circumstantial.

It comes out like this:-

(i) In 1832, during the restoration of St Faith's Church, the then Rector claims to have found a Roman pavement underneath the Church tower but we know nothing about this except his note nor do we know what he knew about Roman pavements;

(ii) Havant was a crossroads in the Roman system and crossroads tended to attract settlement;

(iii) There were several Roman Villas in what is now the Borough although none of them are known in the Town Centre.

That is why I cautiously said that the settlement here, probably Roman, and possibly pre-Roman, depended on the spring. I understand from your letter that you have substantiated archaeological and what you mention as historical evidence that the spring almost certainly supplied a settlement here with water from pre-Roman times. As the proud, if sometimes saddened Borough Secretary of the Borough, I would be very pleased indeed to know of any evidence which pushes back the antiquity of Havant but without something adding to what I have said at (i), (ii) and (iii) above, the statement as I framed it seems to be correct.

I confess however I do find difficulty with your statement that Havant "derives its name from the Latin "Haman Funta" (Hama's Well). The bit about Hama's Well causes no problems; it is effectively Ekwel's "Hama's Spring" and although I suspect that Hama is a conjectural figure and I have no reason to think that that is wrong. However, I am sure you will see on reflection that we cannot possibly put on a bronze plaque that Havant "derives its name from the Latin "Haman Funta" because we both know that Funta is not a Latin word at all. "Funta" is given by all the authorities as an old English word and I think it has paradigms in other Teutonic languages. Cameron (English Place Names) actually gives it as an old English word deriving from Old Welsh which I find a little surprising and for most of us the commonsense of its derivation from fons/fontis which you will remember is the (relevant) Latin for spring or well, must be irresistible. Moreover, although I do not think we are going to know much about the shadowy "Hama", if he existed, that surely cannot be a Latin name because:-

(i) it is a characteristically Anglo-Saxon and not Latin sort of word and, in fact, hama as you may know was the Anglo-Saxon word (or one of the Anglo-Saxon words for a cricket, of the hearth, not the test match, variety.

(ii) If Ekwall and the other authorities are right about giving him a final 'n' to characterise the genitive then that would indeed consummate the genitive of a weak Anglo-Saxon noun ending in 'a' whereas there is certainly no declension of a Latin noun which would add a singular genitive ending in 'n' and if there is an irregular which forms in that way I would be very interested to hear of it.

(iii) If we have here the name of a town called after the personal name of some non-regal person living here during the Roman occupation, then I think that would be very unusual.

In all of these matters, of course, if I am wrong, please let me know because I genuinely like to enlarge my store of knowledge day by day and I am very happy indeed to find out something in the field in which I am interested even if it demonstrates that what I thought before was not quite right. I sometimes find, alas, that not everyone I meet adopts that position but in the end only one thing matters – getting it precisely right, or at least not demonstrably wrong.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Adams, Borough Secretary

Dear Mr Adams

23 March 1987

Homewell Enhancement Proposals.

Thank you for your long and erudite letter dated 13th March about the wording for the Homewell Plaque.

I am enclosing copies of an extract from "The Small Towns of Hampshire" by Michael Hughes, with which you are no doubt familiar, and a report on excavations in my own back garden by the South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group. These both give indications of Roman finds within the Central Havant area, and, as Mr Hughes says, more could almost certainly be found by proper investigation before development takes place. The new shopping centre, welcome as it may be, will undoubtedly destroy further evidence in very important areas unless investigation is carried out. This applies to both West Street car park and West Street Arcade, and North Street, and I do hope means can be found to ensure that archaeological experts have a chance to look thoroughly at all the areas affected. I would welcome your advice on how best to bring pressure to bear to see that this is done.

Coincidentally, I have just received a copy of a letter sent to Cllr Mrs Daines by Mr Peter Williams regarding the Roman building site at Warblington, and am enclosing a copy, together-with his photographic evidence. A Borough Excavation unit seems a very promising idea, as I feel that, being dependent on the good will of Winchester, Havant tends to be dismissed as unimportant and uninteresting. Again, I should welcome your-advice on how best to promote the

idea. I am also sending a copy of Mr William's information to the County Conservation Officer.

To return to the wording of the plaque, I have also asked David Rudkin, of the Roman Palace at Fishbourne, for his comments, as it was he who suggested that the shards I was finding in the garden were sufficiently interesting to justify investigation.

Now to the derivation of the name: As you will see, Mr-Hughes agrees with Haman untan, in 935". However, Margaret Gelling in "Signposts to the Past" published in 1978, argues that "Funta" is a corruption of Latin "fontana", and this element probably came into Old English direct from Latin, and implies a continuity of occupation from Roman to Saxon times where it occurs. On this subject, I have also written to Dr Michael Jones, Lecturer in Mediaeval History at Nottingham University, to ask for his comments, and will let you know what he says.

So, unexpectedly, the simple subject of a plaque for Homewell Spring has opened up an investigation to arrive at the truth about Havant's past. I am sure there is more to be found in central Havant, as the weight of evidence suggests that it was such a convenient and pleasant site that occupation continued on the remains of what had gone before.

I am delighted by your interest, and shall look forward to your further comments.

Mrs Betty Marshall, Chairman, Havant Branch, Bosmere 100 Society.

The following is contributed by John Pile:

According to articles on the Internet, Háma (Old English Hāma), Heimir (Old Norse) and Heime (German) was a legendary Germanic hero who appears in the Anglo-Saxon poems *Beowulf* and *Widsith* as well as Scandinavian and German epics. Whether this has any bearing on the place-name (*æt*) *hamanfuntan* AD 935 (12th cent.) I am not qualified to say. Richard Coates, *The Place-Names of Hampshire*, 1989, adds 'Hāma is a derivative of the element Hām- or Hæm-, frequent in personal names'. Also, is it possible, as Phil suggests, that the funta was the 'spring of the cricket(s)'? OE *háma* is a cricket.

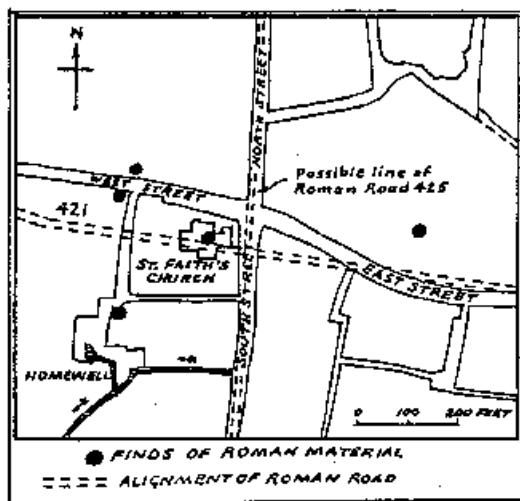
Urban District Council of Havant and Waterloo

Minute of 10 March 1936:

Miss Keppell of East Ashling had written to say that on 28 January, owing to the absence of a lamp, she had the misfortune to drive her car into the spring at Homewell. The committee resolved that two white posts should be erected to avoid a similar occurrence.

Miss Keppell was only one of many who have found themselves in the spring before the wall was built.

The Homewell, Havant, Hampshire by John Pile



From earliest times the history and fortunes of Havant have been closely related to its many springs and streams. Some twenty springs rise within the old parish of Havant in the space of two-thirds of a mile along the narrow spring-line formed by the junction of the impervious Reading clay and the chalk strata which surface here. The source of the water is very deep-seated and it emerges crystal clear and at a constant temperature of 51°F. (1)

The place-name Havant is derived from the Old English form *Hamanfunta*, first recorded in AD 935, meaning 'Hama's spring'. *Funta* is a corruption of the Latin *fontana* 'a fountain' and Margaret Gelling argues that this element of the place-name came into Old English direct from Latin and therefore implies continuity of occupation in Havant from Roman to Saxon times. (2)

The original meaning of 'well' was a spring and clearly it is in this sense that we must interpret the name Homewell. Discussing the place-name Fontley (or Funtley) in Titchfield, Richard Coates states that the first element *funta* described a 'Romanized spring' and considering the numerous Roman period sites and finds around the Homewell there can be little doubt that this was also the case at

Havant. (3)

Hama's spring is almost certainly the Homewell, a conspicuous spring that rises in the centre of the town, 40 yards south of St Faith's churchyard. The earliest documentary evidence of the Homewell occurs in 1301 when it is *Hamwelle*. Although there is no direct evidence that the Homewell was a 'holy well', its close proximity to the parish church suggests that its waters may have been used for liturgical purposes and it is likely that they were believed to possess curative properties as well.

Another spring in the same system, rising in Bedhampton, three-quarters of a mile west of the Homewell, is known as St Chad's Well, though this name is probably an 18th century antiquarian's interpretation of Shadwell. In 1801 the spring was said to be 'justly celebrated for its pleasant taste and useful qualities', and the same writer says of the Havant springs: 'some of these springs partake of medicinal qualities, in a garden adjoining the mill pond there is a chalybeate spring, which turns to a dark purple colour upon infusing galls into it.' (4)

The origins of Havant are obscure, but it is fairly certain that it owes its existence to developments initiated in the early years of the Roman occupation. Havant lies on the Roman road from Chichester (*Noviomagus*) to Bitterne (*Clausentum*) via Wickham and Professor Barry Cunliffe has suggested that it was built by the legionary commander and future emperor Vespasian in the early stages of his campaigns in southern Britain to facilitate the movement of troops. (5)

It is significant that Havant lies at the intersection of two major alignments of this road and it is possible that the Homewell was the objective of these alignments. It is also possible that a road station was set up here as it is equidistant from Chichester and Wickham, believed to be another road station at the junction of the Chichester and Winchester (*Venta*) roads. As a road station Havant would have attracted civilian occupation for which there is plentiful archaeological evidence dating from the second century or earlier until the fourth century.

A site a few yards to the west of the churchyard, on the corner of Homewell and West Street, disclosed a Roman well containing some fragments of second century pottery, and a Roman occupation layer adjacent to the Homewell included oyster shells and pottery sherds. The nature of the occupation during this period can only be guessed at, but the sites that have so far yielded Roman material suggest a settlement of timber-framed, rather than masonry structures strung out along the east to west road, with a hint of a more substantial building on the site of the

church.

It is usually assumed that the Chichester to Bitterne Roman road deviated from its alignments on the east and west sides of the town in order to follow the approximate course of the present East and West Streets, but this is only conjecture and it is equally possible that the original alignments continued and intersected at a point to the west of the church, in which case the road would have passed beneath the south side of the church. Indeed, the present road may be the result of a re-routeing of the Roman road in the early middle ages in order to skirt the churchyard.

During the course of building work on Homewell House in 2013, a Georgian property south of St Faith's and adjacent to the Homewell, a well, constructed of Isle of Wight stone and dated to between AD 250 and 280, was discovered and excavated by Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit under the direction of Dr Andy Russel. According to the local press quoting Dr Russel it was 'filled with coins and a bronze ring and a carving of Neptune, the Roman god of the sea. Perhaps most intriguing was the discovery of eight dog skeletons at the bottom of the well. Experts believe the dogs, which were worshipped in some ancient religions, may have been dropped down the 'sacred well' as a sacrifice to the gods.' (6)

At some later date, perhaps during the third century, a north to south local road was made to serve the potteries that had started production in the Rowlands Castle area and to form a link with Langstone Harbour and Hayling Island. (7) The crossroads attracted further occupation, and by the third and fourth centuries it is likely that a market had formed dealing in pottery, salt, oysters and local farm produce. (8)

Havant disappears from the archaeological record after the fourth century, but reappears in the historical record six hundred years later in AD 935 when it was granted by king Athelstan to his minister Wihtgar. (9) The description of the bounds of the estate show that the Roman road to Chichester was still in use, as it remains today. Together with the place-name evidence already cited we may be reasonably confident that people continued to live in Havant throughout the long period of the 'Dark Ages' though it is unlikely that we shall ever know the form this occupation took.

Havant, called *Havehunte*, is mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) under the lands of St Peter's abbey in Winchester. (10) Though a church is not mentioned in that record it is very likely there was one and it is suggested that it stood on the site of the present church of St Faith. It is also suggested that this earlier church

was successor to a pagan shrine associated with a spring, perhaps rising within the building. Such a continuity of use of the site, or at least reverence for it, might account for its choice for an early Christian church. Alternatively, the building and consecration of a Christian church on a pagan site might be seen as a way of negating the influence of the pagan gods who dwelt there.

Charles John Longcroft, the 19th century historian of Havant, in an intriguing passage in his *Hundred of Bosmere*, says that the churchyard 'like Dereham and other ancient sites, has a well to the east of the chancel. There was usually in the early ages a fountain near the principal entrance where the people used to wash themselves before they entered the sacred edifice. It was termed Cantharus [or] Phiala, and by modern writers Leontarium. One is found adjoining the churchyard of Havant, still called Homewell, a corruption of Hamwell, signifying the well of the town.' (11) This passage is ambiguous in that it suggests that both the Homewell spring and the spring to the east of the chancel may have served as sources of water for the ablution of those about to enter the church or temple; whether simultaneously or at different times is unclear.

What is certain however is that there are abundant sources of water close to St Faith's church, though which of these were used in the past for liturgical purposes is uncertain. The spring to the south of the chancel to which Longcroft refers may be that found during the course of recent work to replace the sewers in South Street. (12) A dowsing survey of the church and churchyard by Laurence Booth in 2016 disclosed a spring and a watercourse beneath the chancel. Laurence also found the below-ground remains of two small structures in the south-east corner of the churchyard one fed by a spring in the north-west corner of the churchyard and connected to it by an underground channel and the other enclosing a spring and a font. (13) The most likely explanation is that these were baptisteries for the use of local converts and pilgrims, well known features of the 4th century Christian church in the West. (14)

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Glove Making - Ian Watson

The firm of Alfred Stent and Sons, a leather manufacturing business, was established in May 1916 in a purpose built building at the rear of the existing tannery in Brockhampton Lane, Along with skilled workers from Yeovil and Westbury Mr Henry May of Cosham came to instruct and supervise local employees, including some from Stallards the parchment makers. The staff totalled about one hundred.

Machinists with treadle machines worked in a room just behind the office in West Street, the male cutters, about 40 in number, using the room above. The initial apprenticeship period of five years was later shortened to three. Materials used were sheepskin, pigskin, dogskin, goatskin, hogskin, snakeskin, chamois and imitation leather. After the end of World War One the hours of work were 7.30am to 12 noon, 1pm to 4pm, 4.30pm to 6.30pm, for which a skilled woman worker received 8s. (40p) per week.

As the firm grew electricity was installed and the machines were power-driven. (The belting from above, driving each sewing machine would give a modern factory inspector a fit.) The number of staff employed rose into the hundreds. The gloves made were of a very high standard and sold by such firms as Dents, Fownes, etc. The cutting of the gloves was a highly skilled process. The skins were dampened and stretched before cardboard patterns were pressed onto each skin, and then cut by a special press machine.

A very large number of local people were engaged as pieceworkers in their own homes, mainly for hand-stitching. Few working class homes in Havant were without their glove making pieceworker, busily stitching fingers, thumbs or button holes. Often full-time pieceworkers would take home 'trimming' jobs to supplement wages.

On one occasion after World War One the firm took part in an exhibition at the Trades Hall, Islington, and two groups of staff spent a fortnight each giving daily demonstrations. The gloves varied from tiny children's to long evening and were made in a variety of colours. Customers included Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, for whom white riding gloves were made in a thin white leather. The fine splitting of the skins required was entrusted to Mr C Freestone. For two consecutive years the firm gave their employees an outing to the lovely countryside of Cocking. The workers from the skin yard, the glove factory and their friends filled 12 coaches.

During World War Two the company manufactured gloves, mittens, flying suits and other leather equipment for HM Forces and employment at Stents became a 'Reserved Occupation'. After the war, by way of diversification, the company also manufactured sheepskin paint rollers for 'Do-It-Yourself' decorators.

The factory closed in 1960.

After the deaths of Messrs Frank and Stirling Stent (the sons of the original Alfred), Mr Leslie Stent (son of Frank) became head of the firm with Mr Peaty as manager.

From Raw Skin to Finished Glove. A Havant Factory's Work

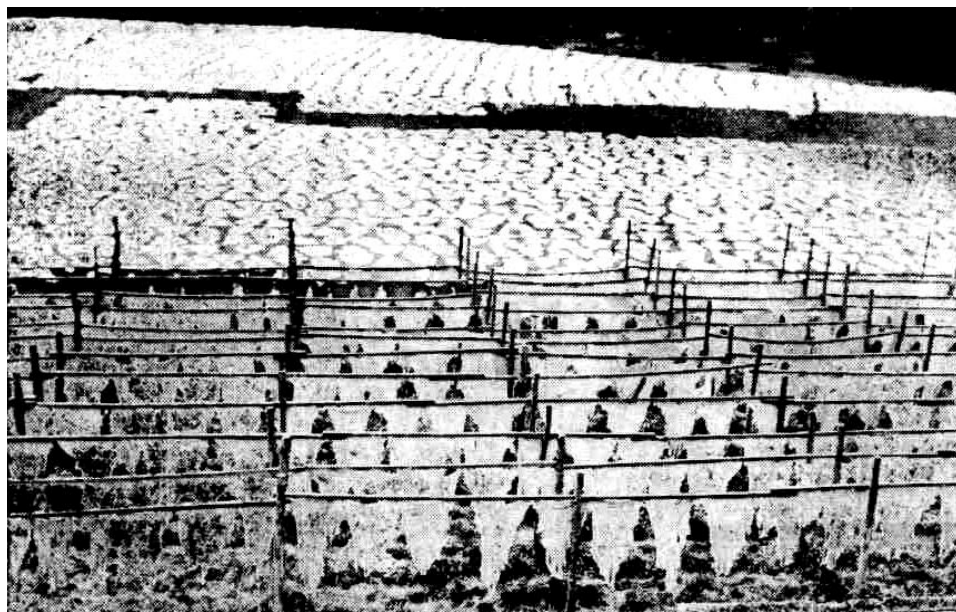
What the proprietors of many of our British factories and works find themselves still up against is the sweated products from other countries which still flood our markets.

Obviously it is well-nigh out of the question for a British firm to contend on equal terms with a foreign producer who sweats his employees and turns out an

inferior, if cheaper, article. To a large extent the public and intermediate merchants are to blame. If they will for the sake of saving a trifle on the transaction, buy foreign goods, then home products are inevitably bound to suffer.

The above remarks are evoked by the fact that in Portsmouth and the district there are several business concerns, which would be all the more prosperous with the resultant benefit to the area in which they operate, if local people would realise that is in their power to cooperate in the good work.

Take, for example, Messrs. Alfred Stent and Sons, the glove manufactures in Havant. Here is a factory with a large number of employees which would be still larger if there were the demand for the home product as compared with the foreign that there should be.



A view of some of the fields where the skins undergo a bleaching process.

"We are buying the raw skin," Mr Stent said, "working it right through into the finished glove, and then selling to wholesale houses, but the difference between our selling price and the price the gloves are being retailed to the consumer is far too much, and we believe that a great number of shops in Portsmouth sell practically only foreign gloves, which does not help to reduce unemployment here.

"Many of the firms abroad, some in slum areas, employ workers at the lowest possible rates – rates, in fact which would not be tolerated for a moment in this country. With British firms paying good wages and considerate for the well-being of their workers, competition of this sort under present conditions cannot be countered."

AMID PLEASANT SURROUNDINGS

Many of the big works in this country which are pleasantly situated are exemplified by this glove factory at Havant. which has fields and pleasant meadows on most sides of its many buildings.

The finished article when it comes to be put on may seem a simple enough affair, but it is astonishing what a number of different processes have to be undergone before the gloves can be put on the market. In fact I believe the processes are so numerous that it would necessitate considerable research to determine exactly how many there are.

The work begins when the bales of skin are unloaded from the various parts of the British Empire from which they come. A large variety of processes is gone through before the materials which are used come in to the large factory where they are handled for the actual cutting, stitching and finishing. Scraping, washing, bleaching and stretching are among some of the earlier treatments the skins undergo. But it is when they reach the making departments that the work assumes its most attractive form.

A start is made at the cutting benches. This is really the most important part of the whole manufacture, and a cutter has to serve five years before he is the finished artist. It is here that the gloves are cut in sizes with thumb-pieces and other requisite adjuncts. The stretching of the material which began many stages back is completed here, after which the rule and scissors get busy.

HANDS STILL BUT NEVER IDLE

It would be tedious to endeavour to enumerate the various processes which follow, but some of them are decidedly interesting. There is the machine which cuts out the fingers and general contour of the glove, so that other machines can get on with the actual stitching. The linings, by the way, have to be sewn in by hand. Then there are the welting and felting stages which come at a fairly early part of the glove's frequently halted journey from the cutting department to the ironing, which is practically the end.

And to the visitor this department is the most arresting of all. Here you have metal hands eternally transfixed into immobility and forever being fitted with gloves. Even the most avid devotee of the fashion world would, I fancy, jib at such a plethora of new gloves having to be fitted on.

The girls who perform this work are extremely expert, and with a delicate touch. They have to be, for these metal hands with outstretched fingers are hot and to touch them with bare flesh a regret to one's clumsiness. The heat is essential to the success of this finishing process.

After this the finished article goes to the racking department, and from there to the various wholesale firms all over the country.

The factory is another producing community whose members seem to find the work agreeable and interesting. Some of them come from Portsmouth, and of course, a large number from Havant and the vicinity. They have their own place (provided by the firm) for heating and consuming their food.



Putting the finishing touches to the gloves before passing them on to the packing department.

VISITORS WELCOME

The firm welcomes visits from schools and from all those who are interested in seeing at close quarters how familiar and every-day articles are produced. It is safe to say that there is always more to be seen in such places than even the most curious of the public imagines. Portsmouth and Hants, unlike some of the more

industrial parts of the Midlands and the North, are not so clustered with factories and works that their existence excites little or no interest among adjacent inhabitants.

It is indeed an education for people in this part of the country to seize opportunities for such itineraries, and not the less so because in this corner of the country they can usually be made in pleasant circumstances that are denied to those living in more congested and industrial areas.

Evening News, 7th July 1932

Donald Foyle

Donald Foyle, now ninety-five, worked at Stent's glove factory between 1936 and 1938, where five members of his sister-in-law's family were cutters. Donald was paid 12s 6d a week and did several different jobs connected with the treating and dyeing of animal skins. He said that the dog and cat skins came from China and he had to put the skins through a 'pecker machine', which consisted of two metal plates. On pulling a lever the two plates came together and the skin then 'looked like leather'. The machine came from Germany as Reparations after World War One and had been used there for glove making.



Stent's Sports and Social Club – most of the football team. 1950s. *Len Roper*



Packing gloves



1953 Coronation celebrations in the workshop



Local girls who worked at Stent's glove factory. Left to right: Laurie Green, Queenie Pink, Bete Sawyer, Eileen Simmons, Vi Stevens, Dos Banbury, Matty Belman, Dora Roper, Grace Roper, Kate Banbury. *Len Roper*



Riding gloves made in the 1960s at Stent's factory for Queen Elizabeth II. It is recorded that these gloves were made by Mr Peaty, who had come from the Somerset glove-making centre at Yeovil. He had been chief cutter and had designed gloves for famous people.



A Stent's workers' annual outing



Another Stent's outing; this time to Windsor

HAVANT

A fire broke out at about six o'clock on Sunday evening on the premises of Mr. Yourt, tanner, at Havant, which, by the timely assistance of the neighbours, aided by the engines and a plentiful supply of water, was extinguished with only the loss of a barn and a small quantity of bark. We have not heard how the fire was occasioned.

Kentish Chronicle Weekly Post, 30 June 1809

Thus morning James Hewlett, a journeyman tanner, of Havant, was found dead in a room where he had lain down in a state of intoxication, last night, to sleep. He has left a wife and family.

Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser, 1 September 1823

SERIOUS FIRE AT BROCKHAMPTON.

A serious fire was discovered on Mr. Foster's property, in Brockhampton, at 2 a.m. this morning. The engine-house and machinery were all destroyed, together with a large quantity of leather. Through the exertions of Mr. Foster and the men at the water works the fire was confined to the one building, and the Havant fire-engine arriving soon after completely kept the fire in check. The loss is estimated at about £1,000, but is thought that Mr. Foster is well insured.

Evening News, 29 Sept 1882

Leather Theft at Havant.

SATURDAY. Before Admiral O'Callaghan (Chairman) and J. E. Cox, J. A. N. Martin. W. P. Snell, and C. P. Boyd, Esqs.

Edward Garnet was charged with stealing 28 chamois leathers, to the value of £1 6s. [£1.30] the property of Alfred Stent, fellmonger, of Havant. The prisoner had been servant to the prosecutor, and while on duty at 8 p.m. on the 24th of December P.S. Knapton saw the prisoner enter the booking office, carrying two paper parcels and a basket, He spoke to the prisoner and took him into the waiting-room, where the prisoner said that the parcels contained "bottles and things". When, however, he proceeded to remove the covering the prisoner added "and rolls of leather", which he further explained he had had down from London, but he made no reply when he was requested to state from whom he had received them. Since the prisoner had been in custody he had admitted the theft by asking the police sergeant if he thought he would get much punishment. The prosecution stated that he had had suspicion of the prisoner previously, and had communicated with the police sergeant on the matter. He identified the leathers being his by the trade mark. The prisoner, who pleaded guilty, excused his conduct by stating, that his wages were only 10s. [50p] per week, and although his master had promised to allow him to do the repairs to the harness he had not done so. The Bench sentenced the prisoner to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

Hampshire Telegraph, 8 January 1887

Yesterday afternoon a serious accident happened to a boy, aged 13, named Thomas Stevens, working at the tan yard of Mr. F. Foster, at Brockhampton. The boy was working at the pressing machine when, something getting into the cogwheels, he tried to get it out, and in so doing got the four fingers of his right hand torn completely off. Mr. Stacey, the foreman, quickly rendered "first aid" and successfully stopped the flow of blood, subsequently taking the poor boy to the Portsmouth Hospital, where he was detained for treatment.

Evening News, 29 October 1890

ALFRED STENT – MARRIAGE

Reported that 150 members of staff assembled in the yard and presented Alfred Stent with a 14-day gilt timepiece on a brass and ebony pedestal and under a glass shade, as a gift on his approaching marriage. Mr C King, foreman, made the presentation.

Evening News 5 July 1893

ANNUAL WOOL SALE AT CHICHESTER

On Tuesday the above annual sale took place at the Corn Exchange, when there was a large attendance, and the proceeding passed off very satisfactorily. Between 20,000 and 27,000 fleeces of English wool from some of the best Southdown, Sussex, and Hampshire flocks were offered by public auction by Mr. Oliver N. Wyatt, of the firm of Messrs. Wyatt and Son. The prices, taken generally, came up to about the average of last year. Clean lots of wool were somewhat scarce, and as a consequence fetched relatively good value. The top price (11d.) was obtained by Mr. R. G. Wilberforce, of Lavington, Mr. Breach being the buyer, whilst Mr. G T. P. Drake, of Cocking came next with 10¾d. For the Duke of Richmond's Singleton and East Dean wool 10½d. was realised, but the Goodwood clip, upon which reserve of 11½d. was placed, remained unsold. Mr, A Newman, Selhurst Park, and Mr. Wilder, of Stansted secured 10½d. for some of their lots, and Mr F. Pitts Broyle Farm, and Mr. F. N. Hobgen, Appledram, 10¼d. The whole of the lots sold under the hammer were taken by four buyers, viz. Mr. E. Prior (Chichester), Messrs Breach and Son (Steyning), Messrs. Manoney, Bros. (Cork), and Mr. Stent (Havant). In all just over 46,000 fleeces were sold.

Sussex Express, 8 July 1893

EXPLOSION AT HAVANT – MR. A. STENT, JUN., LOSES AN EYE

A sad incident occurred last Saturday at Stent's fellmongering yard, Havant. Mr Alfred Stent, Jun., was near the boiler, when the gauge-glass burst, and the

scattered *debris* severely lacerated his face and cut the left eye, so that the sight has gone. Mr. Stent was taken to Dr. Gedge, who promptly attended to the wounds, after which he was taken to his home, Spring Vale, Havant.

Hampshire Telegraph 6 June 1896

TRADESMAN'S FUNERAL

On Tuesday afternoon the remains of the late Mr. Alfred Stent were laid to rest in Havant Cemetery. The first part of the service was held at the Congregational Church. The coffin, surmounted by two massive wreaths, was borne into the church by employees of the firm, followed by the sons of deceased and representatives of the Havant Urban District Council and several tradesmen. After the Pastor, Rev. R. J. Wells, had conducted the preliminary part of the service the cortège proceeded to the cemetery. His coffin, which was of polished oak with brass mountings, bore the inscription: "Alfred Stent, died 11th April 1905, aged 58 years." There were many floral tributes from his family, relatives and friends, and the employees of the firm.

Evening News, 15 April 1905

FIRE AT HAVANT – GOOD STOP BY BRIGADE

Shortly before nine o'clock last evening a man at work in the grinding shed at the works of Messrs. A. Stent and Sons, wool-staplers and fellmongers, West-street, Havant, discovered an outbreak of fire in the drying shed, which had a good stock of skins going through the drying process. Within a few minute of the discovery the roof of the shed – a wooden one, had fallen in, and flames were raging to a great height. The Havant Fire Brigade were seen in attendance, under Chief Officer Brazier, but it was at once apparent that there was no chance of saving the shed in which the outbreak occurred. All of the efforts of the Brigade were therefore set to prevent the fire spreading to the offices and other stores.

Soon many hundreds of people had gathered in the vicinity, and as portion after portion of the burning building collapsed the whole scene was visible for miles around. In about an hour the Brigade had prevented all danger of the fire spreading, but firemen remained on duty all night and this morning the fire was still smouldering. On inquiry at the office our representative was informed that the damage was considerable, but anything like a proper estimate would not be obtained for some time. Great credit is due to the Fire Brigade and Police, as at one stage it was feared that the cottages adjoining in West-street were in danger.

Evening News, 22 October 1913



Seven of the author's Outen family are seen here in Southleigh Forest stripping oak bark for the tanning industry.



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